

Gen. Milley faces challenges as next Joint Chiefs chairman Page 3

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STRIPES STARS

協12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く) 行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木/丁目23番17号 定価¥50 **50¢/Free to Deployed Areas** WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019 Volume 78, No. 120 ©SS 2019 Clashes escalate

Police detain an anti-government protester in Hong Kong on Tuesday. Thousands of black-clad protesters marched in central Hong Kong as part of multiple pro-democracy rallies Tuesday urging China's Communist Party to "return power to the people."

Hong Kong protester shot as China marks 70 years of Communist rule

By EILEEN NG AND JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

 ${\bf HONG\;KONG-In\;a\;fearsome}$ escalation of violence, Hong Kong police shot a protester in the chest at close range Tuesday, leaving the teenager bleeding and howling on the ground. Tens of thousands joined anti-government demonstrations that spread across the semi-autonomous Chinese territory as Communist leaders in Beijing celebrated 70

The pistol shot fired by the officer as protesters swarmed toward him hit the 18-year-old on the left side of his chest, police spokeswoman Yolanda Yu said. She described the protesters as "rioters" and said the officer feared for his life.

The wounded youth was taken to a hospital for treatment, Yu added, without giving details about his condition.

SEE CHINA ON PAGE 15



Protesters set a fire to block traffic in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

North Korea: Talks with US to resume this weekend

By KIM GAMEL Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea and the U.S. agreed to resume nuclear negotiations this weekend, Pyongyang said Tuesday, a move that would break a seven-month-long diplomatic deadlock.

The sides have been teasing plans to restart working-level talks since President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met at the Korean border on June 30.

Efforts remained stalled after the leaders failed to reach an agreement during their February summit in Vietnam, which exposed sharp disagreements over the pace of sanctions relief in exchange for steps toward denuclearization.

North Korea's first vice minister of foreign affairs, Choe Son Hui, said the countries agreed to have preliminary contact Friday and to hold working-level talks Saturday.

North Korean delegates "are ready to enter into the [North Korean]-U.S. working-level negotiations," Choe announced via the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

"It is my expectation that the working-level negotiations would accelerate the positive development of DPRK-U.S. relations,' she added, using the initials for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

She did not say where the meeting would take place or give more details.

The State Department confirmed that "U.S. and DPRK officials plan to meet within the next week.

"I do not have further details to share on the meeting," spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said.

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Navy brings back Torpedoman rating

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Stars and Strines

MANAMA, Bahrain Navy has reinstated its Torpe-doman's Mate rating nearly a quarter of a century after it was consigned to Davy Jones' locker, the service said in a message

The change is a direct response to fleet feedback and supports "rating modernization initiatives to continue to empower sailors and expand professional development opportunities," said the message from Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. John Nowell.

The Torpedoman moniker was first used in 1921 and changed to Torpedoman's Mate in 1942. It retained that name until 1995, when the Navy merged the job with machinist submariners.

Torpedo mates are responsible for weapons loading, unloading, on all classes of submarines, according to a Navy statement.

"Although there are similarities between a Machinist's Mate and a Torpedoman's Mate, the TM's main focus at sea is weapons handling, force protection and maintaining an incredible level of proficiency in ordnance, small arms and the upkeep of those systems," Senior Chief Heath Mangrum, a Machinist's Mate (Weapons) who will transition to a Torpedoman, said in the Navy statement.

Mangrum, who serves as the lead torpedoman at the Navy's Atlantic Submarine Force command added that excitement among his sailors about the reinstatement of the rating was 'through the roof."

Their glee was also evident on the CNP Facebook page.

"I'm so glad we continued fight-



etty Officer 3rd Class Raul Bonilla, a Machinist's Mate (Weapons) on the USS Olympia in this July 2018 photo, would transition to a Torpedoman's Mate under the Navy's announcement on the return of the Torpedoman's Mate rating starting Tuesday.

ing to bring back our identity, one commenter, who signed his name as retired TM Master Chief Eddie Smith, posted. "Great job

"Glad to have our Torpedo brothers and sisters back," another commenter said.

The decision to bring the Tornedoman rating back stemmed from an April "All Hands Call" at Naval Base Kitsap, Wash., where then Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson proposed the idea to the crowd, the Navy message said.

The change is strictly administrative and will only require affected sailors to change the rating badge on their uniforms, going back to the same one that was used prior to the 1995 name change. Current Machinist's Mates (Weapons) will not see any changes to advancement exams, selection boards or sea/shore ro-tations, Tuesday's message said.

"I think the Navy bringing back the TM rating is going to pay incredible dividends," said Mangrum. "It's the right time for a change like this to light the fire under our sailors and embrace the heritage in the rating."

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Navy to drop instructor-led college at sea program, saving \$2M annually

By Joshua Karsten Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain - A Navy program that allowed sailors to take college courses while at sea is being shuttered, and the funds saved by the move are being transferred to a tuition assistance program that will benefit more sailors, Navy officials said Monday.

The decision to ax the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education-In-structor Led program, or NCPACE IL, was made because of the high cost of running the program and the steady decline in enrollment over the years, officials said.

"NCPACE IL was resource-intensive with administrative costs exceeding onethird of the overall program expenses (\$1.3 million annually), regardless of enrollment numbers," Lt. Cmdr. James Stockman, spokesman for Naval Education and Training Command, said in an email.

In addition to the instructor-led program requiring "intensive administrative oversight," having high program costs and attracting only a relatively small number of sailors, it had generated "no interest from higher education institutions when the supporting contract came up for renewal this year," Ernest D'Antonio, director of Navy Voluntary Education, said in a statement.

The roughly \$2 million that will be saved annually by closing instructor-led NCPACE will be redirected to tuition assistance, where the funds will benefit more sailors, both men said.

Enrollment has declined from 5,587 sailors in 2010 to only 1,491 in 2018, Stockman said. In just the past year, 80% of sailors chose online and distance education programs over the traditional classroom courses provided by NCPACE IL.

'We recognize that sailors are interested in pursuing advanced degrees, and we support their ability to further their personal educational goals," D'Antonio said. "This change ensures funding remains available to the greatest number of sailors.

The NCPACE program is not going away completely, Stockman said. The program will be transitioned to a virtual model to accommodate demand among sailors for online and distance-learning courses, he

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Milley faces challenges as new Joint Chiefs chairman

By Lolita C. Baldon Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Army Gen. Mark Milley is taking over as the nation's top military officer against a backdrop of controversy over defense aid to Ukraine that has triggered a presidential impeachment inquiry at a time of persistent threats from China, Russia and Iran.

Milley, who was sworn in during a rain-soaked ceremony Monday at Joint Base Myer-Henderson, officially became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and President Donald Trump's too military adviser at midnight.

He will face what has been an increasingly difficult task: maintaining the nonpolitical nature of the U.S. military and providing blunt advice to a president who is prone to making sudden Pentagon announcements via Twitter and abruptly turning on Cabinet members who cross him.

In a brief speech Monday, Milley told Trump, "You can rest assured that I will always provide informed, candid, impartial military advice to you."

He vowed to maintain the high quality of the world's preeminent fighting force.

"With the complex challenges of the international environment, the United States Armed Forces stand ready. We stand ready to keep the peace or, if necessary, win the war," he said.

Trump, who attended the ceremony, praised Milley, saying, "Mark is living proof that the American warfighter is the toughest, smartest and bravest, best and brightest by far anywhere in the world."

Pentagon leaders have largely tried to avoid the impeachment matter. House Democrats are moving ahead with their probe into a phone call and whistleblower complaint that Trump pressured Ukraine's president to investigate Democratic foe Joe Biden's family. But the issue casts broad gues-

tions over whether allies must worry that any U.S. military aid could come with political strings attached. Milley will be at the forefront of military deliberations with U.S. allies and partners around the world.

The matter did not come up during the Fort Myer ceremony. Addressing the visiting chiefs

Addressing the visiting chiefs of defense from other nations who attended the event, Milley said in his speech that their presence "demonstrates the importance of our shared security interest and common values. As chairman, I look forward to working with all of you to ensure our collective security."

Milley, 61, has been serving as the Army chief of staff since August 2015, and he succeeds Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford as Joint Chiefs chairman.

A combat-hardened veteran.



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/A

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, center, with his wife, Hollyanne, is congratulated by the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford, during a ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., on Monday.

Milley commanded troops during several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Milley, a native of Winchester, Mass, received his Army commission from Princeton University in 1980. An infantry officer by training, he commanded Special Forces units in a career that included deployments in the invasion of Panama in 1989 and the multinational mission in BosniaHerzegovina to implement the Dayton Peace Accords.

Ås the Army's leader, Milley helped shepherd the ground-breaking move of women into front-line infantry and other combat positions. More recently, he has worked with his senior officers to reverse a shortfall in Army recruiting when the service fell far short of its annual great leaf very

Exhibit highlights Army base's green efforts

By Martin Egnash Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany
— Deer don't seem to mind routine artillery fire at an American
military base here, and bats like
to breed in old bunkers, a local
German museum exhibit savs.

"Eco-friendly" might not be what springs to mind when most people think of military bases, but the special exhibit called "Green Paradise and Military Training" highlights the efforts being made by the U.S. Army training base's environmental protection division.

The Culture and Military Museum of Grafenwoehr is showcasing geological, plant and animal specimens from the training area, along with explanations about how the Army's practices have affected them, often in surprisingly positive ways.

For instance, the red deer population is found in larger concentrations on-base than anywhere else in Germany. It's believed to be the largest concentration of red deer anywhere in Europe, the exhibit says.

Exhibit photos show a herd of deer in the artillery impact area during the autumn mating season. Other displays show the base's scenic natural beauty, from its rocky Jurassic zone in the west to flood plains, forests, bogs and heath in the east. Glass cases hold



Marine Francisco (Charles and Charles

A picture of the large number of red deer at the Grafenwoehr Training Area is on display at the Culture and Military Museum Grafenwoehr in Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Tuesday.

arrays of colorful moths.

The Army has catalogued at least 3,000 types of plants and animals in the training area, including more than 800 animals classified as threatened or endangered, such as the bats that use former bunkers as breeding grounds.

Base environmentalists are crossing their fingers that a pair of wolves that recently returned to the area will mate soon. They belong to a species that was overhunted in the 19th century.

"Many people may be surprised to know that military training areas tend to be areas of high preservation and conservation significance," said the U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria environmental division.

Because they are relatively undisturbed parts of military bases, training areas "provide the most suitable hot spots and habitat stepping-stones for preserving sensitive species in an otherwise developed world," the division said in a statement.

The museum shows projects the environmental division has undertaken over the years, such as soil erosion prevention, water conservation and reseeding.

In addition to preserving natural habitats, the base includes more than 100 abandoned human settlements, including former fruit orchards featuring varieties no longer found outside the training areas.

The exhibit, which is sponsored by Stadt Grafenwoehr and the Heimatverein Grafenwoehr, began last month. It will continue until March 2020.

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1 person killed as Iraqi police fire on protesters

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Iraqi security forces fired live bullets, tear gas and water cannons to disperse hundreds of anti-government protesters in Baghdad on Tuesday in hourslong clashes that killed one person and injured 200, according to officials

The confrontations were some of the worst in the Iraqi capital in more than a year, and signaled that the war-weary country could be facing a new round of political instability.

The Tuesday afternoon rally, which was organized on social media, began peacefully with more than 1,000 people marching into the central Tahrir Square. As some tried to cross the bridge to reach the fortified Green Zone — home to government offices and foreign embassies — police started throwing stun grenades and firing rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse them. Some fell to the ground as they ran away, wiping their eyes.

"We want this government to be changed. This is a government of political parties and militias," said Fadhel Saber, 21, who was participating in the protest because he is unable to find a job.

As more people converged into the square chanting anti-government slogans, riot policemen began to fire live ammunition to disperse them, scattering the mostly young male protesters, some of whom covered their faces with scarves. Other protesters responded by throwing stones at security forces and waved Iraqi flags above the water cannon. Young men were

seen carried away, some of them bleeding.

Medical officials said one protester was killed and dozens were injured, some with live bullets and others with rubber bullets, while many others suffered breathing problems because of the tear gas. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with Iraqi Health Ministry regulations.

A joint statement issued by the Iraqi interior and health ministries said one person was killed and 200 injured, including 40 members of the security forces.

It said it "regretted" the violence that accompanied the protests in Baghdad and several other provinces, blaming "a group of rioters" for the inciting violence, while calling for calm and restraint.

Tray's influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in a tweet called on government leaders to launch an investigation into Tuesday's clashes

"We want the very basic rights — electricity, water, employment, and medicine, and nothing else," said Mohammed Jassim, a protester. "But this government is shooting at the crowd and killed some people."

Over the past months, protests across Iraq have left scores of people injured. Similar protests and confrontations took place Friday in the southern cities of Basra and Nasiriva.

Iraq finds itself increasingly caught in the middle of U.S.-Iran tensions in the region, which began after the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal last year.

Japan's off-base sales tax raised

By Seth Robson AND HANA KUSUMOTO Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan U.S. servicemembers in Japan will have to fork over a little more ven for off-base goods and services after the host nation raised its sales tax from 8% to 10% Tuesday.

The last time Japan increased the tax was in 2014, when it went from 5% to 8%. The latest tax increase was postponed twice by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, but officials say it's needed to fund social services. The cost of caring for the elderly and keeping the national debt under control is rising as Japan's population ages.

The tax increase doesn't apply to items such as food and drinks. except for alcohol and restaurant meals, to reduce the impact on low-income people, according to information posted online by Japan's Ministry of Finance.

U.S. military personnel are already feeling the impact with train and taxi companies charging more. Staff Sgt. Steven Campbell, 29, of Detroit, who has worked at Yokota in western Tokyo since 2017, said he had to pay a higher road toll than usual during a trip Tuesday.

Companies operating expressways in Japan said they'd raised prices in line with the tax increase. For example, the Kyushu Expressway toll has increased from 510 yen, or about \$4.70, to 520 yen for passenger cars.

Campbell said he shops offbase and uses public transportation and toll roads regularly.

"I will probably just keep doing the same things ... maybe cut one or two trips here and there to save," he said. "Two percent doesn't look like much, but it does add up over time."

The U.S. government should increase troops' cost-of-living allowance - a payment designed to make up for higher costs at certain locations - to compensate them, he said.

Steve Deland, 68, a retired Air Force command and control technician living in Tachikawa, near



Signs above cash registers at a McDonald's near Yokota Air Base, Japan, explain new pricing after the country's 10% consumption tax took effect Tuesday.

Yokota, said higher costs might hit young airmen who want to explore off base rather than save their money to spend when they return to the United States.

The Japanese government has published some examples of the sort of increases people can expect to see.

For example, a train fare from Yokosuka Chuo Station — near Yokosuka Naval Base - to Yokohama has increased from 360 yen, or \$3.32, to 370 yen, or \$3.41, according to train operation Keikyu. The fare between Fussa - near Yokota — and Shinjuku stations has gone from 640 yen, or \$5.90, to 650 yen, or \$5.99, according to Japan Rail East.

The initial cost to hire a taxi in downtown Tokyo, Mitaka and Musashino cities has increased from 410 yen (\$3.78) to 420 yen (\$3.87). Additionally, the 80-yen (73 cents) fare now covers only 233 meters, or 764 feet, not the 237 meters, or 778 feet, it did before Tuesday, according to a statement by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Taxi fares have risen by a similar amount in other parts of the country, according to government officials

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Spokesman for DODEA's Pacific schools accused of drunk driving on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE AND AYA ICHIHASHI Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa The spokesman for all Department of Defense Education Activity schools in the Pacific region was arrested in Okinawa over the weekend on suspicion of drunken driving

DODEA public affairs official Paul Stevenson, 56, was taken into custody at approximately 5:30 a.m. Sunday on Route 58 in Kina, Yomitan village, according to Kadena police station Deputy Chief Officer Zenpei Agarie.

Stevenson was reportedly driving erratically, speeding up and slowing down, which caught the attention of police. When Stevenson was pulled over, police smelled alcohol on his breath, Agarie said

Abreathtest measured his blood alcoholcontent at 0.12%, four times Japan's legal limit of 0.03 percent. For comparison, all 50 U.S. states have set 0.08 as the legal limit for driving under the influence or driving while impaired.

Stevenson admitted he had been drinking but did not remember how much or what he drank. Agarie said. The case was referred to the Naha District Public Prospectors Office.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Stevenson was being held at Okinawa Police Station in Okinawa City pending the completion of an investigation, Agarie said.

A third of the 2,222 drunken driving arrests on Okinawa in 2018 occurred between 6 and 10 a.m., according to the Okinawa Prefectural Police website. The period between 2 and 6 a.m. produced about one-fourth of the arrests that year.

Stevenson arrived on Okinawa in June to become the spokesman for DODEA Pacific, which comprises nearly 50 schools serving more than 22.500 children on military installations in Japan, South Korea and Guam.

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Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force

The engine of a P-3C Orion like the one shown here fell while being detached in a hangar at Kanoya Air Base, killing a Japanese sailor.

Japanese sailor dies on base as he works on aircraft engine

By MATTHEW M. BURKE AND AYA ICHIHASHI Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force sailor was killed at a base in Kagoshima prefecture this week while working on an aircraft engine.

The unnamed sailor - described as a chief petty officer in his 40s — was pronounced dead by a naval doctor at 2:43 p.m. Monday at Kanoya Air Base, a JMSDF spokesman told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. It is customary in Japan for some government officials to speak on condition of anonymity.

The sailor was working with several others in a hangar to detach the engine from a P-3C Orion when it fell. He was struck by its propeller. The cause of the incident is unknown at this time. the spokesman said.

The JMSDF has launched an investigation.

"My sincere condolences to the sailor's family, losing [him] to such an unfortunate accident,' First Maintenance Squadron commander Capt. Hirotaka Ootsuka said in a written statement provided to Stars and Stripes. 'May the sailor rest in peace. We shall not have this accident again and we will come up with a plan."

The P-3C is a long-range, antisubmarine patrol aircraft that's been in operation since the 1960s,

according to the U.S. Navv.

Airman, his wife found dead after shooting

By Rose L. Thayer Stars and Stripes

Tech. Sgt. Zachary Firlik, a 17-year veteran of the Air Force. and his wife were found dead Saturday night following a shooting in military housing near Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., service officials confirmed.

Air Force Col. Gavin Marks told the Omaha World-Herald that the shooting occurred about 8:30 p.m. in the Rising View community in the Omaha suburb of Bellevue, just west of the base, The Associated Press reported Firlik was identified Monday by base officials as the airman found dead. However, base officials did

not name Firlik's wife. Base officials also did not provide details about the deaths. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations detachment at Offutt is leading the investigation, though personnel from Sarpy County also responded to the incident.

Firlik was an assistant flight chief assigned to the 55th Security Forces Squadron since April 25. He joined the Air Force on

June 26, 2002, according to officials at Offutt. His awards and decorations included two Air Force Commendation medals and one Air Force Achievement Medal, according to his service record

Offutt is home to U.S. Strategic Command and is located about 10 miles south of Omaha. It has about 6,500 airmen, and the 55th Wing is the Air Force's only unit to fly the RC-135, a fixed-wing reconnaissance aircraft.

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PACIFIC

S. Korea shows its US-made F-35s for 1st time

By Hyung-Jin Kim Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea - South Korea on Tuesday displayed some of its newly purchased U.S.made F-35 stealth fighter jets for the first time during its Armed Forces Day ceremony, a development that will likely infuriate rival North Korea.

Under its biggest-ever weapons purchase, South Korea is to buy 40 F-35 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin by 2021. The first few batches of the aircraft arrived in the South this year. North Korea has sharply reacted to the deliveries, calling them a grave provocation that violates recent inter-Korean agreements aimed at lowering military tensions.

On Tuesday, President Moon Jae-in reviewed military planes, including an F-35, missiles and artillery systems that were displayed on the ground at the start of the ceremony at an air base in southeastern South Korea.

Moon and other top officials later watched three F-35s and other warplanes flying in close formation one after another.

In a televised speech during the ceremony, Moon said he felt secure about the might of our military armed with new equipment such as F-35As that we disclosed for the first time." He said South Koreans would also be "very proud" of the military capacity.

South Korea previously publicized photos of its F-35s, but it was the first time the aircraft were shown at an official event since the first two of the planes were delivered here in March, according to the state-run De-Acquisition Program fense Administration.

Moon, a liberal who espouses greater reconciliation with North Korea, was behind a flurry of North Korea-U.S. diplomacy on the North's nuclear program. During his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang last September, the two Koreas struck a set of agreements meant to ease military animosities such as halting front-line live-fire exercises and dismantling guard posts along their border.

Many conservatives in South Korea have said the deals greatly undermined South Korea's national security because North Korea's nuclear threats remain intact

Moon said during Tuesday's ceremony that strong national security would support dialogue and cooperation with North Korea and an effort to build a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Nuclear diplomacy largely remains stalled since the second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Vietnam in February collapsed due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea. However, North Korea has announced talks will resume this weekend.

Kim and Trump held a brief, impromptu meeting at the Korean border in late June and agreed to resume diplomacy.



Above: South Korean President Moon Jae-in, center right on vehicle, attends a ceremony for Armed Forces Day at Daegu Air Base in South Korea on Tuesday at which U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighters were displayed for the first time. Below: South Korean Army soldiers participate in the event.



Talks: Bolton says North trying to buy time with diplomacy

FROM FRONT PAGE

Choe's statement came a day after Trump's hawkish former national security adviser, John Bolton, warned that the North was not willing to give up its nuclear weapons and was trying to buy time with diplomacy.

North Korea has long despised Bolton, who has called for regime change and advocated a so-called "Libva model" of denuclearization, an unattractive prospect for the North since Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi was killed years after he disarmed.

"The strategic decision Kim Jong Un has made is to do whatever he can to keep nuclear weapons capability and development,' Bolton said in remarks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

In his first public remarks since being ousted from the administration, Bolton also criticized Trump's lax reaction to recent short-range missile tests that he said clearly violate U.S.-led United Nations Security Council sanc-

tions resolutions.

The North has suspended nuclear and long-range missile tests, but satellite images and the recent launches show it is continuing to develop its weapons programs.



President Donald Trump stands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the North Korean side of the border at the village of nmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone on June 30. North Korea says it will resume nuclear talks with the U.S. this weekend.

The communist state also has stepped up its bellicose rhetoric. expressing anger over continued joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises and frustration over the lack of diplomatic progress after a series of historic meetings last year.

"The return to talks is not a surprise; #NorthKorea needed a face-saving interval after Hanoi to regroup - and to improve its negotiating position," Jean Lee, a Korea expert with the Washington-based Wilson Center, wrote on Twitter.

included #missile "Tactics tests, threats & playing hard to get. Also wanted John Bolton Out of the picture. Now they're ready," she added.

Neither side has given any public indication of progress toward narrowing the gap in views about how to achieve their professed goal of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

However, the North has praised Trump's suggestion made last month that Washington may pursue an unspecified "new method" in the negotiations.

North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Kim Song, blamed Washington for the deadlock in his speech at the U.N. General Assembly.

"It depends on the U.S. whether the DPRK-U.S. negotiations will become a window of opportunity or an occasion that will hasten the crisis," the ambassador said.

Harry Kazianis, an analyst with the Washington-based Center for the National Interest, said the two sides need to compromise to prevent the talks from falling apart again.

"The challenges that could result if these talks fail should not be understated," he said in a commentary, warning that could lead to new provocations on both

"That can only mean one thing: a repeat of the 2017 crisis that could have started a nuclear war,'

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War on terrorism

Task force earns nearly 50 medals in 1 deployment

By CHAD GARLAND Stars and Strines

Members of a special operations task force distinguished themselves with "exceptional heroism, valor and dedication" on a recent six-month deployment to Afghanistan, officials said last week.

For their efforts, the soldiers of Special Operations Task Force 102 earned five Silver Star medals, seven Bronze Star medals with Valor devices, 15 Army Commendation medals with Valor devices and 21 Purple Hearts. The medals were presented last week at a ceremony attended by soldiers, family and friends at Fort Carson, Colo.

"We come together as family and unit to honor the heroism and sacrifice of our soldiers and their families," Lt. Col. Justin Hufnagel, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) commander, said in a statement. "For 170 days of a blistering series of operations, we focused on disrupting the enemy in their strongholds.3

The task force was made up of soldiers assigned to 10th Group, Special Forces Group (Airborne), 9th Psychological Operations Battalion and 71st Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). U.S. Army Special Operations Command's Lt. Gen. Francis M. Beaudette, who presented the 48 awards, said he was "incredibly humbled" to be in their presence.

"These Green Beret heroes ... embody all the values and attributes we hold dear in the ARSOF community," Beaudette was quoted as saving at the event.

The families of Sgt. 1st Class Will Lindsay and Sgt. Joseph Collette, two soldiers killed in combat in northern Afghanistan in March, received medals awarded posthumously to their loved ones Lindsay, 33, a Green Beret with 10th Group, was awarded a Silver Star, the third-highest military combat decoration. Collette, 29, an EOD tech with the 71st Ordnance Group's 242nd Ordnance Battalion, received a Bronze Star with Valor.

Two other 10th Group members - Master Sgt. Micheal Riley and Sgt. 1st Class Elliott Robbins were posthumously awarded Army Commendation medals with Valor. Riley was killed by small-arms fire during combat operations in southern Uruzgan province in June. Robbins, a medic and new father, reportedly died in a noncombat incident that same month in Helmand province.

"This ceremony brings meaningful closure to such an incredible group of warriors," said Beaudette. "This is a warrior battalion, within a warrior formation, and we get a sense of their love of country, unit and their teammates."

With three combat deaths and a noncombat fatality, 10th Group's 2nd Battalion has suffered the most fatalities of any unit in Afghanistan this year, which has been the deadliest year for U.S. forces in Afghanistan since 2014, when large-scale combat operations ended. Two soldiers with the 71st Ordnance Group were also killed alongside 10th Group soldiers there this year.

The U.S. mission in the country has focused on pressuring the Taliban on the battlefield into meaningful negotiations during peace talks that were abruptly ended by President Donald Trump in early

With most of the roughly 14,000 U.S. troops deployed to the country assisting NATO's training and advising mission, a relatively small number go into combat or



Green Berets of 10th Special Forces Group received awards for combat action in Afghanistan during a valor award ceremony at Fort Carson, Colo., on Sept. 26.



Valor awards are ready to be presented to the Green Berets of 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 10th Special Forces Group. The awards were presented for valorous actions during the battalions' most recent deployment to Afghanistan.

serve on the front lines of the war. Most who do are special operations troops taking part in unilateral or joint operations with their Afghan counterparts as part of a separate U.S. counterterrorism mission.

SOTF-102 carried out "enduring, complex and sensitive operations" during its deployment, the 10th Group statement said.

Videos played during the awards ceremony told the stories of several courageous acts during those missions, which the statement said were able to "penetrate the enemy's defenses."

"The task force produced unmatched effects against the Taliban, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan (ISIS-K), Haqqani, and Al-Qaeda," the statement said.

Very little has been made public about those missions or their effects. In recent years, the U.S. military gradually ceased mak-ing public most of the measures of progress in Afghanistan, and last year stopped publishing regular assessments of which districts in the country are under government or Taliban control, or neither.

Meanwhile, militant groups have gained attention through stunning attacks in crowded public areas in large cities and by carrying out deadly attacks on Afghan forces posted at checkpoints throughout the country.

The U.S. has aligned its efforts in Afghanistan to prioritize the prevention of high-profile attacks, disrupting insurgent and terrorist networks, and defeating ISIS-K, the Pentagon said in a report to Congress in June.

The awards presented to the special operations task force members recognized their contributions to that fight, said Hufnagel, the 2nd Battalion commander.

"They earned these awards supporting one another, side-byside, in battle," he said.

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Afghan officials: Taliban attack killed at least 11 policemen

By RAHIM FAIRZ

Associated Pres

KABUL, Afghanistan - The Taliban launched a multi-pronged attack on a district headquarters in a remote area of northern Afghanistan early Tuesday, killing at least 11 policemen and triggering an hourslong gunbattle, officials said.

Taliban attacks have continued unabated even as Afghanistan held presidential elections Saturday, weeks after U.S.-led peace talks collapsed.

The attack on the Shortepa district headquarters in northern Balkh province started early in the morning, according to Munir Ahmad Farhad, spokesman for the provincial governor. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the insurgents had overrun the compound.

Farhad denied the claim, saying Afghan security forces were still in control of the district headquarters. He said that Afghan reinforcements drove the Taliban from the area. "Security situation is under control right now," he added.

There has been some damage to the district police chief headquarters, said Farhad

The district is very remote said Mohammad Afzel Hadid, head of the Balkh provincial council. He also confirmed that the Taliban were defeated after reinforcements arrived.

The Taliban had casualties during the battle, said Hadid, but he couldn't provide any figure.

In a separate Taliban attack in eastern Ghazni province, at least three civilians were shot and killed by Taliban, said Ahmad Khan Serat, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

He added that six other civilians were wounded when the Taliban targeted the civilian vehicle traveling from Jaghatu district toward Ghazni city.

The Taliban did not immediately comment on the attack in Ghazni.

Last week, there were at least 68 attacks by the Taliban across the country during election day, most of them rockets fired from distant outposts. At least five people were killed, including one policeman, and scores more were wounded.

Despite upgraded security, authorities said 431 polling stations stayed closed because it was impossible to guarantee their security since they were either in areas under Taliban control or in places where insurgents could threaten nearby villages.

Results of the vote are not due for

The Afghan government was sidelined in the U.S.-Taliban talks, aimed at ending America's longest war. The Taliban have refused to negotiate with Kabul officials as they consider the Afghan government a U.S. puppet.

GI hurt in Somalia attack, AFRICOM clarifies

By John Vandiver Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART Germany One U.S. servicemember was injured when militants attacked a base used by American forces in Somalia, U.S. Africa Command said Tuesday, revising an earlier statement that there were no

U.S. casualties when al-Shabab

fighters launched an assault on

Baledogle Military Airfield. AFRICOM clarified that one servicemember sustained non-life-threatening injuries during Monday's attack on the complex, which is used by U.S. forces to train the Somali military and conduct surveillance operations. The command also corrected details released earlier about the U.S. response to the attack.

"One U.S. service member was treated as part of standard con-cussion protocol," the Stuttgartbased command said. Additionally, one airstrike was

launched against al-Shabab fighters in response to the attack, not two as previously stated, it said.

A total of 10 al-Shabab fighters were killed in the U.S. response to the attack on the base

In a separate strike Monday in Qunyo Barrow, an area near the coast and roughly 100 miles south of the Somali capital, Mogadishu,

Amnesty accuses US military of civilian deaths

By John Vandiver Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany - A U.S. airstrike in Somalia earlier this year killed three civilians, an international human rights organization claimed Monday, citing a new investigation.

Three men killed in a March airstrike were farmers, not terrorists belonging to the al-Shabab militant group, Amnesty International said in the report released Monday.

U.S. Africa Command disputed the report's findings, saying a "body of multi-intelligence reporting" showed all suspects were actively supporters of al-Shabab.

"U.S. Africa Command minimizes the risk to civilians by following a thorough, reasonable methodology that accounts for weapons effects and mitigates risk to civilians," said John Manley, an AFRICOM spokesman, in a statement.

Earlier this year, Amnesty accused AF-RICOM of killing 14 civilians in five airstrikes in Somalia between April 2017 and December 2018.

The latest accusation is related to a March 18 attack in Somalia's Lower Shabelle region, in which an airstrike hit a passenger vehicle, killing three civilians, Amnesty said. The group interviewed relatives and business associates of the victims, who all said the men were not members of al-Shabab, the report said.

AFRICOM's intelligence, however, in-cluded "actions observed from the vehicle" which enabled the military to arrive at 'reasonable certainty the vehicle and its occupants" were al-Shabab members, the Stuttgart-based command said.

AFRICOM has conducted about 50 airstrikes in Somalia so far in 2019, more than any other year. To date, the command has acknowledged only two civilian causalities from an airstrike in 2018

That acknowledgement was made after an internal review of airstrikes found a U.S. counterterrorism unit failed to properly report the deaths to higher headquarters

The review was prompted in part by continued interest in civilian deaths by both Amnesty and Congress, AFRICOM has

In its latest report, Amnesty's Daphne Eviatar called on the U.S. government to conduct impartial investigations into "all credible allegations of civilian casualties, hold wrongdoers responsible, and make reparations to victims and survivors.

"It can start by establishing an accessible mechanism for Somalis to safely report civilian casualties of U.S. military operations," said Eviatar, Amnesty USA's director of security with human rights.

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one more terrorist was killed. AFRICOM said.

"This strike demonstrates that U.S. and Somali forces will continue to take every opportunity to counter and degrade the capacity of al-Shabab to plan and conduct attacks," said U.S. Air Force Col. Chris Karns, AFRICOM spokesman, in a statement, "Continued pressure on al-Shabab impacts their ability to further export violence across Somalia and elsewhere."

AFRICOM assessed that no civilians were injured or killed as a result of the airstrikes, which come amid new allegations from a human rights organization that a strike earlier this year killed three civilians, not al-Shabab fighters as the U.S. military has claimed. AFRICOM has disputed the findings of the Amnesty In-

ternational report, saying a "body of multi-intelligence reporting' showed all suspects killed in that attack were active supporters of al-Shahah

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Court is told suspects in home invasion had loaded gun

By MARCUS KLOECKNER Stars and Strines

ZWEIBRUECKEN, Germany - A judge on Monday brought more serious charges against one of the men accused of violently attempting to burglarize the Landstuhl home of an American family in February after learning that he and his alleged accomplices had a loaded gun and zip ties

The suspect, a 61-year-old man with a long criminal record, told a psychiatrist who conducted a mental health assessment of him that he had left the gun in the vehicle the four men drove to the Americans' home on an evening in February, because he knew that taking the weapon inside the house would mean they would face more serious charges if they were caught, the

What he didn't know was that possessing zip ties at a crime scene is considered by German courts to also indicate intent to commit a felony with violence.

One suspect was killed by the American father, who stabbed him during the attempted burglary. A German court has ruled that the American, a former Air Force major who moved to Germany with his family to work as a Defense Department civilian, acted in self-defense and threw out a lawsuit brought against him by two of the other suspects, both brothers of the deceased.

The judge elevated the charges against the suspect who testified Monday, who



MARCUS KLOECKNER/Stars and Strip

A court in Zweibruecken, Germany, learned Monday that the four men accused of being involved in the violent invasion of an American family's home in Landstuhl in February had a loaded gun with them.

under German law can only be referred to in news articles by his initials, A.M., from attempted burglary to aggravated robbery. She is expected to do the same for the two other suspects, who are due to appear in court on Wednesday.

If convicted of the more serious charge,

the three could face a minimum of three years and up to 15 years in prison.

Because of his long criminal record, A.M. is also expected to be placed under preventive detention if convicted, which means he could spend the rest of his life in prison. Preventive detention allows a convicted criminal's prison sentence to be extended indefinitely.

A.M. is being tried separately from the other two surviving suspects, his brother

J.M., 52, and a 33-year-old French national who grew up in Germany, J.R. They testified earlier that they did not expect to find anyone at home when they went to the Americans' house with intent to "take

The four went to the house after learning from a moving company employee who helped deliver the American family's household goods that there was a safe full of gold coins and gold-plated roses in the home, they said at an earlier hearing.

After learning about the loaded gun and zip ties, the judge delayed sentencing for J.M. and J.R., which was supposed to happen on Wednesday.

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Airman is recovering after crash that killed 2

By JENNIFER H. SVAN Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany - A car involved in a deadly crash on Spangdalem Air Base this week caught fire after it left the road and hit a stationary object, a base official said Tuesday.

Two airmen were killed and a third was

injured in the crash near the base's passenger terminal on Monday morning.

The two dead airmen's next of kin have been notified, said Air Force Capt, Erin Recanzone, a 52nd Fighter Wing spokeswoman, but the servicemembers' names,

ages and units have not been released. The injured airman, who was airlifted to a hospital in Koblenz after the crash, was

in "good condition," Recanzone said.

The base is host to the only U.S. Air Force fighters in Germany — F-16 C/D Fighting Falcons, which are part of the 480th Fighter Squadron.

Monday's single-vehicle accident happened on the perimeter road that winds past the passenger terminal and along the back of the base, connecting the area around the golf course to base housing. The speed limit on the road, which has one lane traveling in either direction, is 70 kilometers per hour (about 43 miles per hour).

The cause of the crash was being investigated, base officials said.

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House Dems subpoena Giuliani in Trump probe

Associated Pres

WASHINGTON — At one end of Pennsylvania Avenue, the president raged about treason. At the other, the methodical march toward impeachment proceeded apace.

Democrats on Monday subpoenaed Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer who was at the heart of Trump's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden's family. That was after one of Trump's staunchest defenders, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, said he would have "no choice" but to consider articles of impeachment if the House approved them.

With Congress out of session for observance of the Jewish holidays, Democrats moved aggressively against Guilani, requesting by Oct. 15 "text messages, phone records and other communications" that they referred to as possible evidence. They also requested documents and depositions from three of his business associates.

Meanwhile, the circle of officials with knowledge of Trump's phone call to Ukraine's president widened with the revelation that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo listened in on the July 25 conversation.

Pompeo's presence on the Ukraine call, confirmed by two officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an internal matter, provided the first confirmation that a Cabinet official heard Trump press President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate Hunter Biden's membership on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

It is that call, and the circumstances surrounding it, that are fueling the new Democratic drive for impeachment.

McConnell, a steadfast Trump defender, nonetheless swatted down talk that the GOP-controlled Senate could dodge the matter of impeachment if the House approved charges against Trump.

"It's a Senate rule related to impeachment. It would take 67 votes to change, so I would have no choice but to take it up," McConnell said on CNBC. "How long you're on it is a whole different matter."

Trump took to Twitter to defend anew his phone call with Zelenskiy as "perfect" and to unleash a series of attacks, most strikingly against House intelligence committee Chairman Adam Schiff. The Democrat, he suggested, ought to be tried for a capital offense for launching into a paraphrase of Trump during a congressional hearing last week.

"Rep. Adam Schiff illegally made up a FAKE & terrible state-ment, pretended it to be mine as the most important part of my call to the Ukrainian President, and read it aloud to Congress and the

American people," the president wrote. "It bore NO relationship to what I said on the call. Arrest for Treason?"

Also taking a defiant stance in the impeachment inquiry, Pompeo on Tuesday declared that House Democrats are trying to "intimidate, bully and treat improperty" five current and former career officials in seeking information in the Ukraine investigation.

Pompeo said in a letter to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as part of the chamber's impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, that the requested dates for the officials to voluntarily appear for depositions were "not feasible."

"I am concerned with aspects of your request," Pompeo wrote to Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., chairman of the panel. "I will not tolerate such tactics, and I will use all means at my disposal to prevent and expose any attempts to intimidate the dedicated professionals."

In halting any appearances by State officials, and demanding that executive branch lawyers accompany them, Pompeo is underscoring the administration's expansive view of the White House's authority and setting the tone for conflicts to come.

When issuing a separate subpoena last week as part of the inquiry, the chairmen of three House committees made it clear



Cuanure Knupa/Al

Rudy Giuliani, President Donald Trump's personal lawyer who was at the heart of Trump's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden's family, was subpoenaed Monday by Democrats.

that stonewalling their investigation would be considered obstruction of Congress in its investigation.

The panels are seeking documents from the State Department and voluntary testimony from the current and former officials.

"Your failure or refusal to comply with the subpoena shall constitute evidence of obstruction of the House's impeachment inquiry," wrote Engel, Schiff and Elijah Cummings of the Oversight Committee.

The chairmen in their letter were seeking testimony over the next two weeks from officials including the former ambassador to Ukraine, Marie "Masha" Yovanovitch, and former special envoy Kurt Volker. Democrats are driving the proceedings toward what some hope is a vote to impeach, or indict, Trump by year's end. They have launched a coordinated messaging and polling strategy aimed at keeping any political backlash in closely divided districts from toppling their House majority

Support across America for impeachment has grown significantly from its level before the House launched its formal inquiry last week.

A new poll from Quinnipiac University shows 47% of registered voters say Trump should be impeached and removed from office, while 47% say he should not. Just a week before, it was 37% for impeachment and 57% against.

President sought Australia's help on Russia probe origins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump recently asked the Australian prime minister and other foreign leaders to help Attorney General William Barr with an investigation into the origins of the Russia probe that shadowed his administration for more than two years, the Justice Department said Monday.

The revelation underscores the extent to which Trump remains consumed by special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, and the ways in which he has used the apparatus of the United States government to investigate what he believes are its politically motivated origins.

It also highlights Barr's handson role in leading that investigation, including traveling overseas for personal meetings with foreign law enforcement officials.

Trump's interactions with foreign leaders — and Barr's role in those discussions — are under heightened scrutiny now that the House has launched an impeachment inquiry into the president. The probe centers on Trump's summertime call with Ukraine's



ALEX BRANDO

Attorney General William Barr, right, has been praised by President Donald Trump, who views Barr as a key ally in his push to "investigate the investigators" in the Russia probe.

president, revealed by a whistleblower CIA intelligence officer, in which Trump presses for help investigating Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump has heaped praise on Barr since he took the helm of the Justice Department earlier this year, viewing him as a key ally for his political agenda, including his push to "investigate the investigators" in the Russia probe. But the Justice Department has denied Barr had any knowledge that Trump encouraged Ukraine to work with him on a separate investigation into Biden.

The president has sought, without evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plaqued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyin.

Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son. There is no evidence that Biden's son was ever under investigation in Ukraine.

The July 25 call by Trump to Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskiy prodding him to dig up dirt on Biden was separate from the numerous conversations Trump had with foreign leaders as part of the investigation into the Russia probe.

Justice spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said Trump made those calls on Barr's behalf.

"At Attorney General Barr's request, the President has contacted other countries to ask them to introduce the Attorney General and Mr. Durham to appropriate officials," Kupec said. Trump was requesting help for U.S. Attorney John Durham's investigation into the origins of special counsel Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The investigation outraged Trump, who cast it as a politically motivated "witch hunt."

Durham's investigation has been cheered by Trump allies, who believe the original FBI probe into Russia's election interference was driven by Democrats.

Barr traveled to Italy last week with Durham, where the two met with government officials as part of the investigation, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. As part of his investigation, Durham is examining what led the U.S. to open a counterintelligence investigation on the Trump campaign and the roles various countries played in that probe.

Mueller wrapped up his report earlier this year with an inconclusive finding about Trump — the president was not charged with any crimes, but Mueller pointedly said he did not exonerate Trump. The president promptly called for an investigation into the origins of the Mueller probe.

Sanders raises \$25M for 2020 in 3rd quarter

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON Sanders reported Tuesday that he raised \$25.3 million during the third fundraising quarter, the largest three-month sum a Democratic White House hopeful has posted all year and an amount that ensures he will be an enduring presence in the primary.

Pete Buttigieg, who entered the race as the little-known mayor of South Bend, Ind., also released his numbers, pulling in \$19.1 million for the quarter, an almost \$6 million dip from his field-leading sum last quarter but an amount that's destined to place him in the top tier.

The large sums, which were posted after the notoriously dry summer fundraising months, come as both candidates have faced skepticism about their prospects. Buttigieg has struggled to break out of single-digit polling, while Sanders has faced a drumbeat of speculation that progressive rival Elizabeth Warren is eating into his base of support.

Taken together, the figures

offer a clear sign that both candidates will have ample resources to compete in the final months before the Iowa caucuses in February. They are the first two contenders to release their numbers, which don't have to be reported to the Federal Election Commission until Oct. 15.

"Media elites and professional pundits have tried repeatedly to dismiss this campaign, and yet working-class Americans keep saying loudly and clearly that they want a political revolution, said Faiz Shakir, campaign manager for the Vermont senator.

In the days and hours before Monday's fundraising deadline, Democratic candidates pleaded for campaign cash, making appeals on social media and collectively blasting out more than 80 emails asking supporters to "chip in" \$5, \$10 or \$50.

An email from Sanders said, "I hate asking people for money and then asked for money Former Vice President Joe Biden's campaign warned that President Donald Trump would "feel like he won" if a fundraising goal wasn't reached. And former Texas Rep.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., takes a selfie with students at a campaign event Sunday at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. Sanders on Tuesday reported raising \$25.3 million for his campaign in the latest quarter.

Beto O'Rourke offered to "try to text you" in exchange for \$5.

There's a growing sense of urgency as the primary becomes a fierce battle for a limited pool of cash that could make the difference between staying in the race and heading for the exits. Those who continue to muddle along in the lower tier will not only face challenges paying for advertising to amplify their message but they are also likely to struggle reaching fundraising thresholds set by the Democratic National Committee to qualify for future debates.

candidates Top-tier Sanders, Buttiegieg, Biden and Warren, a U.S. senator from Massachusetts, are anticipated to be among the leaders in the field. But others are facing pressure to post competitive numbers or get out, something that might not happen soon enough for some angsty Democrats.

"If you are being outraised 3to-1 by Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders or Joe Biden, you have no viable path to victory," said Rufus Gifford, President Barack Obama's former finance director. 'Even if you can compete in the early states ... shortly thereafter you will run out of money."

Cory Booker recently warned that unless he juiced his fundraising numbers by an additional \$1.7 million, he'd likely have to drop out, stating that he didn't "believe people should stay in this just to stay in it." But the New Jersey senator announced he surpassed his goal on Monday, raising \$2 million after enlisting help from Hillary Clinton and his girlfriend, the actress Rosario Dawson.

Biden more fierce amid uproar over

By BILL BARROW

John Kerry got "Swift Boated" in 2004. For Hillary Clinton in 2016, it was her "damn emails." Remembering those failed Democratic presidential campaigns, Joe Biden is determined not to get

Since a whistleblower report last week revealed that President Donald Trump asked Ukrainian officials to investigate Biden, the former vice president has struck an aggressive tone.

He has told supporters that he would beat Trump "like a drum" in a general election and that the Republican president is scared of that possibility. Biden has demanded that reporters "ask the right questions" and accused Trump of trying to "hijack" the campaign with unfounded assertions that Biden and his son, Hunter, had corrupt dealings in

Biden has built his campaign

While many Democratic stratremain some worries about how the storyline might affect Biden's

"It's really a no-win situation." said Karen Finney, an adviser to Clinton in 2016 when the former

Finney credited the Biden line of Hunter Biden's service on a Ukrainian energy company board and Joe Biden's involvement in Ukraine as vice president to establish that there were no conflicts. The campaign followed that by pressuring television executives not to give a platform to Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal attorney.

Giuliani has alleged that Biden, while vice president, tried to quash a Ukrainian investigation of the company that paid Hunter

Trump critics struggle to raise money for primary challenge

By HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. - Mark Sanford, the most prominent primary challenger to President Donald Trump, has said he won't solicit contributions from his longtime donor base until he's "proven a measure of electoral

Bill Kristol has yet to fully activate a super PAC aimed at hurting Trump's reelection chances.

And Stuart Stevens, the top strategist for Sen. Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign, until he was prompted, could not recall the name of the super PAC he is advising that supports another Trump challenger, Bill Weld.

So far, not even the start of an impeachment inquiry against the president has energized the campaigns of those candidates, or aligned groups, seeking to deny Trump the Republican presidential nomination.

Still, outside spending by disenchanted "Never Trump"-type Republicans could diminish Trump's 2020 odds by wounding his candidacy even if stopping well short of denying him the nomination.

"For now, the idea that somehow, some way, some seven-figure guy or some seven-figure bundler, is going to break from the pack to go support one of these guys is just, I don't think, realistic," said Reed Galen, a former Republican-turned-independent worked in the past for George W. Bush and John McCain.



Weld, the former Massachusetts governor and the first Republican

to announce a primary challenge to Trump, has struggled to mount a serious fundraiseffort, ing

according

to the most

Sanford

recent Federal Election Commission filings. That's also been true for the pro-Weld super PAC America United.

At the end of June, the committee had raised only \$60,000 and had less than \$20,000 cash on hand. Stevens emphasized last week that fundraising is just start-ing. By comparison, New Day for America, a super PAC supporting former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, ended June with close to \$414,000 cash on hand.

"The people that we're talking to are against Donald Trump," Stevens said. "And they were against Donald Trump before, so it's not like some light bulb went off. This may open up a new group of donors. I just don't know yet.'

Weld was joined in the Republican primary race in recent weeks by Joe Walsh, a former tea partybacked, one-term congressman



Walsh

from Illinois. and Sanford, the former South Carolina governor and congressman.

Since announcing for president in April, Weld strughas gled to gain

footing in New Hampshire even with frequent campaigning in the state. Sanford and Walsh both recently made initial visits.

Kristol, a director of Defending Democracy Together, a 501(c)(4) anti-Trump conservative group, said Trump's dealings with Ukraine and the impeachment proceedings have led to Never Trump donors feeling vindicated. And last week, Republicans for the Rule of Law, a project of Defending Democracy Together, announced it had begun targeting digital ads at some congressional Republicans as "the first stage in a \$1 million campaign urging Republicans to stand up for the rule of law and speak out against the president's abuse of power.'

It could be a new ballgame, Kristol said, and he raised the possibility of other Trump challengers get-



say they're being seen as serious. I don't think people think they can win," Kristol said of the three

ting into the

would

primary chalcurrent Trump lengers. "But I think you can be serious without having much of a chance of winning if you raise issues and show weakness in the front-runner." That has resulted in a transition

for Trump's Republican critics. "Most of the Never Trumpers

in the Republican Party, both donors and activists, are gradually becoming After Trumpers," said Dan Schnur, a former Republican-turned-independent who was national director of communications for McCain's 2000 presiden-

Ukraine

Associated Press

"Ukrained" in 2020.

Ukrainian business and politics.

around the idea that he can return Washington to a more stable pre-Trump era. But Biden's ability to win will turn on his ability to navigate the turbulent, no-holdsbarred vortex that Trump has imposed on American politics with his Twitter megaphone, deep well of campaign cash and phalanx of surrogates.

egists and Biden supporters give him plaudits for pushback, there tenuous front-runner status.

secretary of state was besieged with media scrutiny and Trump criticism over her use of a private email server when she ran the State Department. campaign for "working the refs' by sending detailed memos to the media explaining the time-

Biden as a board member The top Ukrainian prosecutor said earlier this year that his team found no wrongdoing, and there's no evidence that U.S. law enforcement has gotten involved. "Why should Joe Biden be

forced to defend himself against something that's not true?' Finney argued.

Officials try to fill gaps in family planning funding

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal officials said Monday they're redirecting nearly \$34 million to cover gaps in access to birth control for low-income women after Trump administration abortion restrictions led to an exodus of clinics from the federal family planning program.

Diane Foley, director of the Health and Human Services office that oversees the so-called Title X family planning program, said Monday the goal is to serve about the same number of women, or more, avoiding disruptions.

"We think we are very close to replacing the number of clients seen, if not exceeding it," Foley said.

Led by Planned Parenthood affliates, about 20% of participating service organizations have left the program over a Trump administration ban on referring women for abortions. Called "grantees," those organizations receive federal grants and distribute them among clinics that directly provide services to women.

About 930 clinics serving an estimated 900,000 clients have been affected by grantees leaving the program.

The money returned to the government has been divided up among organizations that remained, said Foley, among them state and local health departments. However, five states will no longer be served by the federal program. They are Maine, Oreon, Utah, Vermont and Washington. Foley said in those cases the states themselves have pledged to replace federal funding.

In a statement, Planned Parenthood Vice President Jacqueline Ayers said the Trump administration was "frantically scrambling to try to fill the gaps" caused by the fallout from its own policy. The administration "continues to fall far short of preserving access to care for patients who need it the most," she added.

The administration earlier this year imposed a series of restrictions on Title X clinics, winning applause from religious conservatives that are a key part of President Donald Trump's political base. The new rules included the ban on abortion referrals and requirements for financial and physical separation from abortion providers. Planned Parenthood offers both women's health services and abortions.

Lawsuits challenging the abortion restrictions are working through federal courts, which so far have ruled the administration's policy can go into effect while the legal issues are decided.

Planned Parenthood and other groups say the ban on abortion referrals is in effect a "gag rule" on providing full medical information to patients.

While abortion is a legal medical procedure, backers of the administration's move say it is not a form of family planning. Religious conservatives have long seen the family planning program as an indirect subsidy to Planned Parenthood, even though family planning grants could not be used to pay for abortion services.

According to the latest research, the number and rate of abortions in the U.S. have fallen to their lowest levels since 1973, when the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion in all the states. Part of the reason for the decline is seen as better access to birth control, which health plans must now cover free of charge as a preventive service for women.

The Title X program serves nearly 4 million clients a year, mainly low-income women who may not be covered by workplace health plans.

BEN ALLAN SMITH, THE MISSOULIAN/A

From left, Tommy Little, Cody Little, Kyndra Neal and Tanya Little sled down a hill Sunday in Missoula, Mont. Schools in Montana towns near the Rocky Mountains were closed Monday because of snow — the earliest day in the school vear for a snow closure in memory.

Weekend snow leads some Montana schools to close

Associated Press

HELENA, Mont — Some schools in Montana took their earliest snow day in memory Monday after a blizzard dumped several feet of snow, while plunging temperatures threatened crops across other parts of the Rocky Mountains in an unusually early blast of wintry weather.

Freeze warnings were in effect in parts of Utah and Idaho, and temperatures were expected to drop into the teens and 20s in those states and Montana overnight and Tuesday morning. The cold set in with the lingering fall storm system that dumped snow for three days across much of central and western Montana, including more than 4 feet on the Blackfeet Reservation and Glacier National Park.

While parts of the Rockies were dealing with frigid temperatures and unusually early snow, warnings of extreme wildfire danger emerged in eastern Utah and much of Colorado, where temperatures as high as the mid-80s, gusty winds and dry air were expected to create critical conditions.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock

has declared an emergency after the storm brought heavy, wet snow and high winds that closed roads, downed trees and caused scattered power outages. The declaration allows the state to mobilize resources to help areas that were hit.

The snow and treacherous roads led to school closures Monday in Montana towns near the Rocky Mountains that received the most snow. School superintendents in some of those communities said they couldn't remember the last time they had to cance school this early because of snow.

"This is the first time in 23 years for sure," said Les Meyer, superintendent in the town of Fairfield. "I am sure we could have held school, but the way this storm hit and the lack of preparation for winter with all of us, it just made it a better situation for the students, parents and staff to close for the day."

Augusta Superintendent Matt Genger said schools closed down Monday because of the road conditions

"I think our furthest student is 30 miles away," he said.

Snowdrifts shut down the U.S.-Canada border crossing at U.S. Highway 89, where state transportation officials also reported that 200 head of cattle were on the roadway. A crash slowed traffic on Interstate 15 and several surrounding state highways were closed because of the some

The National Weather Service issued both freeze warnings and extreme wildfire danger warnings in Utah. The hard-freeze warnings in the western part of the state are expected to last until Tuesday, meaning outdoor plumbing and crops that have no protection could sustain significant damage.

The fire warning is in the eastern part of the state near Moab through Monday evening.

Like the Rockies, Nevada saw wintry weather this past weekend. Less than 1 inch of snow fell in the tiny town of Winnemucca, breaking a 142-year-old record, while Lake Tahoe and some other northern Nevada towns also got

Treasury targets Russian financier, troll farm workers with sanctions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department on Monday took its first action in response to foreign interference in the 2018 midterm elections by placing the yacht and private planes of a Russian financier on an international sanctions list along with employees of a Russian troll farm he funded to spread false information on social media.

Sanctions placed on the planes and yacht of financier Yevgeny Prigozhin mean that any U.S. and many foreign ports would face penalties for providing services to the vessel or the aircraft, according to a U.S. Treasury Department notice announcing the measures

"Let this serve as a warning: any actors who continue to engage with these individuals, companies, aircraft or vessel may also be subject to future sanctions," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement. "We have been clear: We will not tolerate foreign interference in our elections."

The Russian Foreign Ministry criticized the sanctions.

"We realize that such steps reflect an internal political crisis that has engulfed the United States, in which Russia-related issues are deliberately used by part of Washington's establishment to achieve its goals," the ministry said in a statement.

"This anti-Russian move won't be left unanswered. At the same time, we are urging U.S. politicians to end the stupid game of sanctions that brings zero results and come back to common sense."

Prigozhin, who was already on the sanctions list for his alleged involvement in influencing the 2016 U.S. elections, uses a series of front companies to manage the yacht and planes that he and his family use to vacation around the world, Treasury said.

The U.S. accuses him of attempting to "subvert American democratic processes," though there is no evidence that the efforts of the Internet Research Agency or other foreign actors managed to prevent anyone from voting, changed votes or disrupted the counting, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

The U.S. is also taking measures to protect the 2020 elections against adversaries that may be seeking to influence that vote as well, Treasury said, singling out Russia, Iran and China.

In the run-up to the November 2018 elections, the Internet Research Agency, based in St. Petersburg, Russia, used fake social media accounts to Riood America with disinformation aimed to discredit candidates it deemed hostile to Russia. In 2016, the same organization sought to help Donald Trump by disparaging Hillary Clinton, according to special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian interference in the campaign

US scientists blast research that questions limiting meat

By CANDICE CHOI Associated Press

NEW YORK - Eating red meat is linked to cancer and heart disease, but are the risks big enough to give up burgers and steak?

A team of international researchers says probably not, contradicting established advice. In a series of papers published Monday, the researchers say the increased risks are small and uncertain and that cutting back likely wouldn't be worth it for people who enjoy meat.

Their conclusions were swiftly attacked by a group of prominent U.S. scientists who took the unusual step of trying to stop publication until their criticisms were addressed.

The new work does not say red meat and processed meats like hot dogs and bacon are healthy or that people should eat more of them. The reviews of past studies generally support the ties to cancer, heart disease and other bad health outcomes.

But the authors say the evi-

dence is weak, and that there's not much certainty meat is really the culprit, since other diet and lifestyle factors could be at play.

Most people who understand magnitude of the risks would say "Thanks very much, but I'm going to keep eating my meat," said co-author Dr. Gordon Guyatt, of McMaster University in Canada.

It's the latest example of how divisive nutrition research has become, with its uncertainties leaving the door open for conflicting advice. Critics say findings often aren't backed by strong evidence. Defenders counter that nutrition studies can rarely be conclusive because of the difficulty of measuring the effects of any single food, but that methods have improved.

"What we need to do is look at the weight of evidence - that's what courts of law use," said Dr. Walter Willett, a professor of nutrition at Harvard University who was among those calling for the papers' publication to be postponed.

Willett, who has led studies tving meat to bad health outcomes, also said the reviews do not consider the particularly pronounced benefits of switching from red meat to vegetarian options.

The journal, Annals of Internal Medicine, defended the work and said the request to have it nulled before publication is not how scientific discourse is supposed to happen. Guyatt called the attempt to halt publication "silly."

In the papers, the authors sought to gauge the potential impact of eating less meat, noting the average of two to four servings a week eaten in North America and Western Europe. They said the evidence for cutting back wasn't compelling. For example, they found that cutting three servings of red meat a week would result in seven fewer cancer deaths per 1,000 people.

Based on the analyses, a panel of the international researchers said people do not have to cut back for health reasons. But they note their own advice is weak and



A man makes a submarine sandwich at a delicatessen in Massachusetts. An international team of researchers is questioning the advice to limit red and processed meats, saying the link to cancer and heart disease is weak.

that they didn't take into account other factors, such as animal welfare and the toll meat production has on the environment.

There was dissent even among the authors; three of the 14 panelist said they support reducing red and processed meats. A co-author of one review is also among those who called for a publication delay

Those who pushed to postpone publication also questioned why certain studies were included or excluded in the reviews.

Harvard's Dr. Frank Hu also noted that about a third of American adults eat at least one serving of red meat a day. He said the benefits of cutting back would be larger for those who eat such high amounts

Still, other researchers not involved in the reviews have criticized nutrition science for producing weak and conflicting findings. Dr. John Ioannidis, a professor of medicine at Stanford University, said such advice can distract from clearer, more effective messages, such as limiting how much we eat.

As for his own diet, Guyatt said he no longer thinks red or processed meats have significant health risks. But he said he still avoids them out of habit and for animal welfare and environmental reasons.

VA nationwide smoking ban has some vets fuming

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. - Serving up drinks at the American Legion post in Concord, Jeff Holland gets a little testy when the talk turns to smoking.

A Marine veteran who enjoys lighting up, Holland, 44, fought unsuccessfully against a ban at the post that went into effect last month. And as of Tuesday, he cannot smoke when he visits the nearby Manchester VA Medical Center in New Hampshire.

It is part of a nationwide smoking ban outside all Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities that applies to visitors, patients and employees.

'I get the aspect that it's a hospital and for all practical purposes you shouldn't be smoking inside the VA," Holland said, "But as far as outside, I think they should still have a smoking area. I mean you got guys from World War I, World War II where this is all they have known for 40 or 50 years. To kind of take that right away, it's kind of

Smoking was already prohibited inside VA medical buildings, but now patients, employees and visitors will not be able to nuff away anywhere on the grounds. Previously, smoking was allowed in designated shelters dotting the grounds of VA medical facilities.

Posters and banners promoting the ban have been put up in facilities and the VA is alerting veterans through social media and letters. They have also held forums on the ban.



Patient Michael Swan rests his hand on his walker while taking a cigarette break Monday in the smoking shack outside the West Roxbury campus of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Boston. The VA started banning smoking at all of its grounds nationwide Tuesday.

"This is a really good thing for our veterans and our staff," said Kevin Forrest, associate director of the Manchester VA, which serves 27,000 veterans. "It's a safer environment. It reduces fire risk. There is certainly evidence that smoking and second-hand exposure is a medical risk for our

The smoking ban was first announced this past summer. It brings the facilities in line with bans already in place at 4,000 medical facilities and four national health care systems that have made their grounds smoke-free.

The move isn't without controversy. A third of veterans smoke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and many were introduced to the habit while serving. Tobacco has long been tied to military. Cigarette ads featured troops, and the culture of the service historically promoted smoking on the battlefield or as a welcome respite from the stress of combat.

"We recognize this is a difficult change for many folks," said John D'Adamo, who is co-chairing the smoke-free implementation working group for VA Boston. It is gradually implementing the ban for the 62,000 veterans it serves over the coming months, including providing resources that could help veterans kick the habit. Violators will initially be warned of the policy and eventually VA police will enforce it.

"This is a major cultural change," he said. "It's really been something often utilized for camaraderie, essentially a sense of community.

But even a gradual rollout is seen as too stringent for some smokers - and even some veterans who don't smoke. They argue that there should be someplace for smoking at VA facilities and fear that some veterans may choose cigarettes or cigars over visiting their VA doctors.

"It's going a little too far," said Gregory d'Arbonne, president of the New Hampshire chapter of the Association of the United States Army. "I'm against smoking, but there are people who smoke. When they do, they go outside and have this little smoking area. Now, what are they going to do?"

Jorg Dreusicke, 72, a former smoker from New Hampshire who recruits members for the Veterans of Foreign Wars nationwide, called the move government overreach. He started smoking at the age of 10 and guit three years

"It's big brother telling people how to live," he said. "Some people don't mind because it doesn't affect them. But for those it affects, they are pissed.'

Others are welcoming the ban, saying it is long overdue.

Tony Botticello, 76, a Coast

Guard veteran whose lung cancer is in remission, said he would often pass by smokers in the parking lot on the way to his treatment at the Manchester VA He smoked for over 50 years but quit five years ago.

Teens seek emergency climate declaration in NM

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE. N.M. - Student activists including several Native American high school students urged New Mexico's Democratic governor Monday to take more aggressive action to address climate change, insisting that her targets for reducing pollution from vehicles, power plants and oil rigs are not ambitious enough.

About 20 climate activists - mostly high school students - urged Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham to declare a climate emergency and set aside state income from the oil and gas industries to pay for the transition to an economy without greenhouse gas emissions

'In the last year, we have seen increased oil and gas production from our state and do not believe we are on track to meet carbon reduction goals nor end our dependence on fossil fuel revenues," said a letter from two climate action groups, including Youth Unified for Climate Crisis Action.

State government and school districts in New Mexico rely heavily on income from oil and natural gas production amid a surge in petroleum production in the Permian



High school student Artemisio Romero y Carver, right, leads environmental activists in a climate change protest song as they deliver a letter of demands to the office of New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham in Santa Fe, N.M., on Monday.

CHICAGO - The special pros-

ecutor appointed to look into why

the state's attorney's office in Chi-

cago abruptly dropped the case against "Empire" actor Jussie

Smollett allegedly staging an at-

tack on himself acknowledged

Monday that he donated to the

top prosecutor's campaign and

that his law firm co-hosted a 2016

County Circuit Court, Dan K.

Webb says he doesn't recall writ-

ing a \$1,000 check to State's At-

The Chicago Tribune reported

he also said he doesn't remember

attending the fundraiser thrown

by his high-powered firm, Win-

torney Kim Foxx's campaign.

In a document filed in Cook

fundraiser for her.

Basin that underlies parts of southeastern New Mexico and West Texas.

The governor's chief of staff, John Bingaman, met briefly with the protesters, promising to take their concerns into consideration and highlighting the governor's commitment to a long list of initiatives and alliances to address climate change

Lujan Grisham was attending indigenous feast day events at the Taos Pueblo community of Native Americans and sent a letter expressing solidarity with protesters.

On Sept. 20, thousands of students thronged the New Mexico state capitol amid worldwide "Climate Strike" demonstrations that urged world leaders to comhat climate change

Wednesday's much smaller protest brought demands for a moratorium on fracking for oil and gas.

Seneca Johnson, 17, a Santa Fe resident of indigenous Muskogee and Seminole heritage, said climate change has begun to undercut Native American traditions at sacred sites and is striking fear into her generation

New Mexico harbors a simmering dispute over the impacts of energy development near the ancient stone dwellings at Chaco Culture National Historical Park. while Johnson says her concerns extend as far as Native American communities in Alaska affected by a warming climate.

"A lot of other young people really feel fear for our future," she said. "It makes it hard to do everyday things, like going to school. ... It's just making it a lot harder to keep our traditions alive."



Former President Jimmy Carter, shown at an annual Carter Town Hall at Emory University in Atlanta last month, has turned 95, making him the longest-living former U.S. president.

Former president turns 95

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA - Jimmy Carter is celebrating his 95th birthday, becoming the first U.S. president to reach that milestone as he continues his humanitarian work and occasionally wades back into politics and policy debates almost four decades after leaving office.

Carter, who served from 1977 to 1981 and still lives in tiny Plains, Ga., planned no public celebrations on Tuesday.

The 39th president, born in 1924 and raised during the Great Depression, has slowed physically in recent years, acknowledging recently that he has trouble walking after hip replacement surgery in May. But he remains active with programs at the post-presidency center he and Rosalynn Carter opened in Atlanta in 1982.

He still teaches Sunday school at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains. The Carters plan to travel for Habitat for Humanity.

Carter survived a dire cancer history this past spring, surpassried 73 years.

In recent public appearances, the former president has sounded like a man still intent on securing his legacy, amplifying his criticisms of American military spending and war, blasting the proliferation of money in U.S. politics and urging action to combat the climate crisis. He's expressed particular pride that the U.S. engaged in no foreign wars during his tenure

"I just want to keep the whole world at peace," Carter said in September during his annual Carter Center report.

later this week to Nashville, Tenn., where they will help build houses

diagnosis in 2015 and became the longest-lived U.S. president in ing George H.W. Bush, who died in 2018. Rosalynn Carter, now 92, is among the longest-lived first ladies. The couple has been mar-

> ter versions of Zantac. In its announcement this past

> > heartburn medications. In September, the FDA said it

ston & Strawn. Included with Webb's filing was a copy of the flyer touting the fundraiser. The invitation notes lawyers in the firm including Webb, a Republican, supported Foxx, a Democrat, in her campaign for state's attorney.

Special prosecutor in the Smollett case donated to state's attorney's campaign

> "I should point out that it is common for Winston partners to host fundraisers for political can-didates at our firm," Webb wrote to Judge Michael Toomin, who appointed the former U.S. attorney as special prosecutor in August. "It is also common that my Winston partners request that I contribute to these fundraisers.

Webb said the matter was brought to his attention last week by Michael Bromwich, an attorney for Foxx. He said Bromwich "made it clear" Foxx won't claim any conflict of interest or make any other objection related to this contribution.'

A hearing is scheduled for Friday, during which Webb is expected to discuss the political donation with Toomin.

The Chicago Police Department maintains that there is overwhelming evidence Smollett staged the attack and paid his two

"attackers" to carry it out. The Cook County state's attorney's office charged Smollett in February with 16 counts of disorderly conduct for allegedly orchestrating the incident. However, it dropped all of the charges a month later with little explanation, angering city officials and

CVS stops sale of certain heartburn drugs

By Linda A. Johnson

CVS has halted sales of popular heartburn treatment Zantac and its generic store brand after warnings by U.S. health regulators.

It's the latest precautionary move by retailers and manufacturers after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently warned consumers about a potentially dangerous contaminant in prescription and over-the-coun-

weekend, CVS said customers who bought Zantac products can return them for a refund. The retailer will continue to sell other

detected low levels of a probable

cancer-causing chemical known as NDMA in Zantac and related generic drugs to treat ulcers and reflux disease. The same chemical has been linked to dozens of recalls of prescription blood pressure drugs in the past year.

The agency said the amount found in Zantac products barely exceeds levels found in common foods such as meats, dairy prod-ucts and chemicals. Even so, the warning has led some pharmacies and manufacturers to stop selling drugs containing Zantac's active ingredient, ranitidine.

CVS Health said Saturday it has pulled Zantac and its generic store brand, saying the move "is being taken out of an abundance of caution." On Monday, Rite Aid said it's removing Zantac and related drugs sold under its name from its shelves. Walgreens earlier said it's removing Zantac products from shelves while the FDA continues its investigation.

Last week, two generic makers voluntarily recalled their products - Apotex and Sandoz, the generic unit of drug giant Novartis AG. Both companies said they haven't received any reports of natient harm. Some other manufacturers have stopped shipping their product to pharmacies.

The recalled Apotex products are sold at and labeled by Walgreens, Walmart and Rite-Aid, according to the FDA.

Sanofi, which makes brandname Zantac, said Monday it's working with the FDA and doing its own investigation. But it has not stopped selling Zantac in the

Juul stops funding vaping measure in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO - Juul Labs Inc. announced Monday that it will stop supporting a ballot measure to overturn an anti-vaping law in San Francisco, effectively killing the campaign.

The nation's largest maker of e-cigarettes said it will end its support for Proposition C after donating nearly \$19 million. It was virtually the only financial backer of the measure.

"Based on that news, we have made the decision not to continue on with the campaign," Yes on C said in a statement.

However, the proposition will still appear on the November

Proposition C would have al-

to adults, partially overturning the city's June ordinance that as of next year would ban sales of ecigarettes and vape products not reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The move was part of a broad review of company policies in the wake of a leadership shake-up.

"I am committed to seeing that Juul engages productively with all stakeholders, including regulators, policymakers and our customers," newly appointed CEO K.C. Crosthwaite said in a statement. "This decision does not change the fact that as a San Francisco-founded and headquartered company we remain committed to the city."

who directs the No on Prop C campaign, was skeptical, noting that about \$7 million in Juul's campaign donations remain unspent.

"This could very well be yet another of a series of lies and exaggerations from Juul and Big Tobacco," he said in a statement. "Until they return the \$7 million unspent dollars that is in their political account, until they suspend their mail, their advertising, their paid phone calls and lay off their consultants, we do not believe

The move came as a 14th U.S. death linked to vaping was reported in Nebraska, Hundreds of people have suffered lung ail-



A cashier displays a packet of tobacco-flavored Juul pods at a store in San Francisco. Juul says it has ended its campaign to overturn an anti-vaping law passed in San Francisco.

ments tied to vaping, although no major e-cigarette company has been linked to them and many patients said they vaped products that included THC, the intoxicating chemical in marijuana.

Even so, critics contend that vaping products are being marketed to minors through the use of social media popular with teens and the production of candy- and fruit-flavored vaping capsules.

Michigan, New York and Rhode Island recently banned flavored vaping products. President Donald Trump has said the federal government would act to prohibit thousands of flavors used in ecigarettes because they appeal to underage users.

Juul has said it doesn't market to youth and its products are meant to be an alternative to smoking. However, the company's advertising is under federal investigation, and the company recently announced it will stop advertising its e-cigarettes in the U.S

Ex-cop convicted in man's shooting

Associated Press

DALLAS - A white former Dallas police officer who said she fatally shot her unarmed black neighbor after mistaking his apartment for her own was found guilty of murder on Tuesday.

A jury reached the verdict in Amber Guyger's trial for the killing of Botham Jean after six days of witness testimony but just a handful of hours of deliberation.

Cheers erupted in the courthouse as the verdict was announced, and someone yelled "Thank you, Jesus!" In the hallway outside the courtroom where Guyger was tried, a crowd celebrated and said "black lives matter" in raised voices. When the prosecutors walked into the hall, the crowd broke into cheers.

Guyger sat alone, weeping, at the defense table.

In Texas, the sentence for murder is from five to 99 years in prison. The jury was expected to return Tuesday afternoon for the punishment phase of the trial.

The basic facts of the unusual shooting were not in dispute throughout the trial. In September 2018, Guyger walked up to Jean's apartment - which was on the fourth floor, directly above hers on the third - and found the door unlocked. She was off duty but still dressed in her police uniform after a long shift when she shot Jean with her service weanon

The 26-year-old accountant had been eating a bowl of ice cream before Guyger entered his home.



Botham Jean's mother, Allison Jean, leaves the courtroom following closing arguments in the murder trial of fired Dallas police Officer Amber Guyger on Monday in Dallas. Guyger was convicted Tuesday.



Guyger visits with her attorneys before proceedings at the Frank Crowley Courts Building last week.

Guvger was arrested three days after the killing. She was later fired and charged with murder, but spoke publicly about the shooting only upon taking the witness stand Friday. Tension has been high during the trial in Dallas, the same city where an attack three years ago killed five police officers.

The 31-year-old tearfully apologized for killing Jean and told the jurors she feared for her life upon finding the door to what she thought was her apartment unlocked. Guyger said that Jean came toward her at a fast walk when she entered with her gun out, but prosecutors have suggested he was just rising from a couch toward the back of the room when

the officer shot him

In a frantic 911 call played repeatedly during the trial, Guyger "I thought it was my apartment" nearly 20 times. Her lawyers argued that the identical physical appearance of the apartment complex from floor to floor frequently led tenants to the wrong apartments.

Prosecutors, however, tioned how Guyger could have missed numerous signs that she was in the wrong place, and suggested she was distracted by sexually explicit phone messages with her police partner.

They also asked why Guyger didn't radio in for help when she thought there was a break-in at

NYPD: Officer fatally shot was killed by friendly fire

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

NEW YORK - For the second time this year, a New York City police officer has been killed by friendly fire.

Officer Brian Mulkeen, who was shot while struggling with an armed man Sunday, was fatally struck by two police bullets during the confrontation on a Bronx street, police of James O'Neill said. Commissioner

"This is an absolute tragedy," O'Neill said Monday, though he quickly turned the blame on the man Mulkeen was grappling with, who was also killed during the burst of gunfire.

"Make no mistake, we lost the life of a courageous public servant solely due to a violent criminal who put the lives of the police and all the people we serve in jeopardy," O'Neill said.

Investigators are still piecing together exactly what happened, but police officials described a chase and fight that led to a chaotic moment in which six officers fired 15 shots in about 10 seconds.

Mulkeen, 33, was on patrol with plainclothes anti-crime unit when he and his partners encountered Antonio Williams, 27, about 12:30 a.m. Sunday near a public housing complex, police said. For reasons that remain unclear, the officers chased Williams, who was on probation following a drug arrest last year and previously served 31/2 years behind bars for burglary.

Mulkeen grabbed him and the two began wrestling.

O'Neill said Mulkeen could be heard on body-worn camera foot-age saying, "He's reaching for it! He's reaching for it!'

Investigators had previously suggested that Williams had wrested the officer's gun away as the pair struggled. But police said Monday that Mulkeen retained control of his gun and fired five shots after Williams reached toward his waistband, said Deputy Chief Kevin Maloney, of the Force Investigation Division.

Other officers fired a total of 10 shots. A loaded .32-caliber revolver belonging to Williams was recovered at the scene, police said. It had not been fired.

Police officials said they were still investigating whose shots killed Williams. "Anybody who wants to play the

'blame the cops' game with this tragedy needs to swallow their rhetoric and look at the facts," said Patrick Lynch, president of Mulkeen's union, the Police Be-nevolent Association. "That perp is the one who carried an illegal gun onto our streets. He is the one who chose to fight with the cops. He is solely responsible for our hero brother's death."

All of the officers except Mulkeen activated their body cameras. He was unable to amid the struggle with Williams, O'Neill said. "He displayed incredible,

incredible courage," O'Neill said. Mulkeen's death echoed that of Detective Brian Simonsen, who was killed by friendly fire in February.

Simonsen was hit once in the chest by crossfire as he and six other officers fired 42 shots at a robbery suspect who charged toward them and mimicked pulling the trigger of a fake handgun.

In more than 61/2 years with the NYPD, Mulkeen made 270 arrests many of them for felonies.

He left a high-paying finance ioh to become a police officer because, as friend Daniel Tucker wrote on Facebook, he "felt like he wasn't doing enough with his

'Guns down, Gloves up.'

Virginia fight club offers a safe place to settle personal disputes

By Theresa Vargas The Washington Post

Jeff Spille doesn't want to talk about what started the beef.

"I get it," I tell him. I know what happened between

him and Charles Surber, and it's personal, it's painful.

It also doesn't matter what caused the two friends to become enemies. What matters is that for eight years, anger boiled, then simmered, then stuck in that impossible-to scrub-off way inside of Spille. He carried it with him wherever he went.

"It was always in the back of my mind," he said, "It was just eating away at me."

Let's just call what happened "the incident."

Before "the incident," he and Surber graduated from the same high school, shared the same circle of friends and saw each other often, sometimes intentionally, sometimes not. Spille would walk into a bar, and there would be Surber Surber would walk into Walmart, and there would be Spille.

After "the incident," Spille said, the two never ran into each other. He's not sure how that's even possible in a small town like Winchester, Va., but he knows himself well enough to describe that as a good thing.

"I was ready to fight at any moment or do whatever it took," he said.

Many smart, much-debated ideas exist on how we should address the nation's gun violence problem. They can be found in academic studies, and in state and federal legislation that has passed and failed. They can be found on the signs of March for Our Lives protesters, and on the lips of people who have lost children, parents and parts of their own bodies to gunshot blasts.

They can also be found on a grassy lot located more than an hour and a half from Washington. If you arrive at the right time on the right weekend each month. you'll find a group of people who say they have found a way to fight gun violence that has nothing to do with studies, laws or protests.

Their solution, they will tell you, is much simpler: Let two people with a grudge pummel each other.

"I know that it probably sounds ridiculous from the outside," Chris Wilmore said. "It's hard to explain. But I can tell you that I have solved beefs with guys I hated before I fought them, and now we talk regularly.

Wilmore, who is called "Scar-

face" and sometimes just "Face," created the fight club "Streetbeefs" in his Harrisonburg backyard in 2008. His goal at that time was to provide a safe place for people in his community to settle disputes.

Like him, many of the club's first members had criminal records and were aware of what could happen if they took their fights to the streets. The club's motto is "Guns down, Gloves up."

"We don't want anyone dving and we don't want anyone going to jail," Wilmore said. "What we do is make them give their word that if this fight doesn't solve it, they have to come back.'

He said he has seen men fight over borrowed money that wasn't paid back, a lent car that was returned damaged, a woman, a tree stand, a tip given to a probation officer about someone's marijuana habit. One dispute got so out of hand, he said, the men tried to run each other off the road.

"I was stabbed in my throat in a street dispute years ago," he said. You may think your dispute is petty. I've seen people die over petty."

In recent years, the club has grown in popularity. Videos of its fights are now watched by people in other states and countries who sometimes come to participate.

On a recent weekend, men traveled from California, Oklahoma and the Netherlands to gather in the bare-bones backvard of one of Wilmore's friends. There, they stepped into a ring made from a chain-link fence and black-painted plywood bearing the scrawled names of other fighters: Iraqi Assassin, Russian Bear, Vandal.

Most of the people who fought that day simply wanted to test their skills.

Spille and Surber were there for another reason. They had come to settle their beef.

Spille and Surber had both recently started going to Neutral Corner Boxing, which was owned by a mutual friend, and Spille realized that made it more likely they would run into each other. He figured it was finally time to address what they hadn't. Through their friend, he invited Surber to fight him at the Street-



PHOTOS BY MATT McCLAIN/Washington Pos

Charles Surber, left, and Jeff Spille, fight during a Streetbeefs event in Winchester, Va. The fight club's founder started the group as an alternative to violence on the streets.



Anthony "Italian Tyson" Russo of Frederick, Md., celebrates after a mixed martial arts match.

Each fight consists of three two-minute rounds. That's six minutes of contact. It seemed a small amount of time to accomplish something as big as extinguishing eight years of anger.

On the day that Spille and Surber stepped into the ring, Wilmore stood between them. The men were an even match, with both measuring 6 feet tall and about 190 pounds. For their fighting names, they chose "Caterpillar and "Chuck D."

"When this is over, it's over, man," Wilmore told them. "No matter what happens, you leave this s--- here, in the yard, all right?"

The men nodded and then tapped gloves. Surber, who is 36, said he didn't want to fight, but he agreed because "I did him wrong.

"I understood his side of it." Surber said. "It's about forgiveness. Sometimes it's a little bit easier to forgive someone when you get to punch him in the face.'

Spille had requested that they wear mixed martial arts gloves, which can do more damage. Surber insisted they use boxing gloves and once they started fighting, he was glad he did.

By the end of the third round, he had a broken blood vessel in one eye and a couple of bumps forming on his brow. He noticed that Spille didn't seem to have any marks on him.

Spille, who is 35, threw several missed punches and hurt his shoulder enough that the pain

would last for a week. But that day, he later recalled, he "felt great

After the fight, he went and bought a six-pack of beer, and invited Surber to join him for one.

"We actually sat down and talked together for the first time in eight years," Spille told me when I call him a few weeks later. I wanted to give him and Surber some time before checking on whether the fight had really settled anything.

"It's over and done," Spille said. "I was in a really bad spot for a long time. It took a long time for me to get over it, and honestly, I never fully got over it until that

He hadn't followed Streetbeefs much before his own fight, but he said he now believes in what the group is trying to do. He has a concealed-weapons permit and estimates he owns about 15 guns. He said many of the people he knows hunt and own weapons

too.
"I think what Chris started is an outlet for a lot of people," he said. "Even people who aren't beefin', they might have other demons they are fighting in their heads and they're letting them loose in the ring.

Surber said he felt a genuine "connection" with Spille after their match ended. No winners are declared in beef fights, so no one will feel as if they lost.

"He looked me right in my eves and I looked him in his, and the negativity was out of there," Surber said. "That was on his part. He was actually able to forgive me. That's pretty cool. It felt nice not to have to look over my shoulder."

Both men said they don't expect they'll ever be good friends again. They also don't expect to feel any urge to fight if they happen to walk into the same bar, store or gym on the same day.

I think what Chris started is an outlet for a lot of people. Even people who aren't beefin', they might have other demons they are fighting in their heads and they're letting them loose in the ring.

Streetbeefs participant

PACIFIC

China parades latest missiles on anniversary

By Christopher Bodeen
Associated Press

BEIJING — Military planners in Washington and elsewhere will be taking note of new missile technology displayed by China particularly a hypersonic ballistic nuclear missile believed capable of breaching all existing anti-missile shields deployed by the U.S. and its allies.

The vehicle-mounted Dong Feng 17, or DF-17, was the stand-out among weapons showed off at a military parade Tuesday marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese state. Those also include the Dong Feng 41, or DF-41, an intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of 9,300 miles — China's longest-range weapon — that could reach the United States in 30 minutes.

Also featured at the event were the JL-2 submarine-launched strategic missile believed to be standard weaponry for China's nuclear-powered subs, as well as the CL-100 cruise missile

Beijing insists all are homegrown, and though China is believed to have benefited from industrial spying and imported technologies, its massive military research and development program and the size of its economy have put its weapons technology at the forefront along with Russia and the U.S.

"The overall combat ability of China's missile force has been enhanced significantly," said Song Zhongping, a military commentator for Hong Kong's pro-China Phoenix TV.

The DF-17 hyperglide vehicle can be launched from a missile and, once separated, can reach more than five times the speed of sound, according to analysts. That speed, and its use of multipath independently targetable reentry vehicles, a technology known as MIRV, to deliver its warheads makes it far more difficult to detect and intercept.

It also flies at a much lower altitude just prior to delivering its warhead, further frustrating attempts to detect and intercept.

Some analysts have called the missile a threat to regional stability because its speed allows far less time to determine whether to fire nuclear weapons in response.

World's longest range

As with the DF-17, little has been officially released about the DF-41, which was shown publicly for the first time. It was loaded aboard a formation of launch vehicles but is also transportable by train. Analysts say they believe it may be housed in silos in the country's northeast.

The Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington says the missile may have the world's longest range, at 9,400 miles. Flying at 25 times the speed of sound, it might be able to reach the United States in 30 minutes and send up to 10 warheads to separate targets using MIRV technology.



MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/

Chinese military vehicles carrying Dong Feng 17 ballistic missiles roll during a parade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of Communist China in Beijing on Tuesday.

China: Protester says Hong Kong people have nothing to celebrate and mourn communist rule

FROM FRONT PAGE

While officers have previously fired warning shots in the air on multiple occasions during months of protests in Hong Kong, this was the first time a protester is known to have been shot. There were other instances Tuesday when officers also drew their weapons, including two with bloodied faces who pointed pistols as protesters and riot police fought fierce battles at multiple locations in the city on edge, with many determined to spoil the Tuesday anniversary of Communist rule

Video that spread quickly on social media appeared to show the officer opening fire as the protester came at him with a metal rod, striking the officer's shooting arm.

Taken by the City University Student Union, it showed a dozen black-clad protesters hurling objects at a group of roit police and closing in on the lone officer, who pointed his pistol and opened fire. The protester toppled backward onto the street, bleeding from below his left shoulder.

As another protester rushed in to try to drag away the wounded youth and was tackled by an officer, a gasoline bomb landed in the middle of the group of officers in an ex-

31AG, which like the DF-41 uses

solid fuel for ease of deployment

plosion of flames

The shooting marked a dramatic escalation in violence that spread chaos to multiple areas of China's freest and most international city.

Riot police fired tear gas in at least six locations and used water cannons in the business district as protesters turned streets into battlefields. A security clampdown to thwart violence that would embarrass Chinese President XI Jinping failed to deter the protests, including a massive march in the city center.

Órganizers said at least 100,000 people marched along a broad thoroughfare in defiante of a police ban, chanting anti-China slogans and some carrying Chinese flags defaced with a black cross. Police didn't provide an estimate of the turnout.

"They are squeezing our necks so we don't breathe the air of freedom," said King Chan, 57, a homemaker who came out to protest with her husband.

Many demonstrators tossed wads of fake bank notes usually used at funerals into the air.

"The leaders who won't listen to our voice, this is for them," said marcher Ray Luk.

Thousands confronted police across the city, the largest number of simultaneous protests since the unrest began in early June over a now-shelved extradition bill that activists say was an example of how Hong Kong's freedoms and citizen rights are being eroded. The movement has since snowballed into an anti-Chinese campaign with demands for direct elections for the city's leaders and police accountability.

The smell of stinging tear gas and smoke from street fires started by protesters engulfed the Wan Chai, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan and Tsim Sha Tsui areas. Protesters hurled gasoline bombs, bricks and other objects at police, who responded with volleys of tear gas.

Protesters used umbrellas as shields and threw tear gas canisters back at police. Police said protesters used corrosive fluid in Tuen Mun, injuring officers and some reporters.

and some reporters.

"Today we are out to tell the Communist Party that Hong Kong people have nothing to celebrate," said activist Lee Cheukyan as he led the downtown march. "We are mourning that in 70 years of Communist Party rule, the democratic rights of people in Hong Kong and China are being denied. We will continue to fight."

China also displayed an upgrade of its mainstay missile, "h the Dong Feng 31, which has a range of more than 6,990 miles that puts most of the continental United States within reach. The second-generation Dong Feng-

and speed of launch, comes with "high mobility and precision," according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Displayed for the first time, the JL-2 is the standard weapon for China's Jin-class nuclear-powered subs, each of which can deploy 12 missiles with one warhead

each. Their range of 4,473 miles makes them more of a threat regionally than to the continental United States.

China's latest CJ-100 supersonic cruise missile also made its public debut Tuesday, carried aboard 16 trucks in formation. Little is known about the weapon, which is speculated to be a replacement for the People's Liberation Army's current CJ-10 cruise missile that has an estimated range of about 930 miles.

The CJ-100s are "characterized by a long range, high precision and quick responsiveness and are the latest addition to the CJ missile series." Xinhua reported.

Credible threats

All those weapons seemed intended to imbue China with the ability to back up its territorial claims with credible threats, especially against the possibility of U.S. intervention. Many, including the already deployed DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile, are seen as standoff weapons to keep U.S. aircraft carriers at bay while subjecting bases such as Guam to the possibility of attack.

China has also responded to what it sees as U.S. moves in the region that threaten its own security. That includes the deployment of the advanced THAAD air defense system in South Korea and Washington's stated determination to deploy a land-based, intermediate-range missile in the Asia-Pacific "sooner rather than later" following its withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

China said in August it "will not stand idly by" and would take countermeasures if the U.S. goes ahead with those plans.

"China should develop missiles that can hit any corners of the world, especially the U.S., as a means of counterattack," Yue Gang, retired colonel and military commentator said. "China must have the deterrent to curb the use of nuclear weapons. ... China has been forced to do so by the situation."

The renewed attention focused on China's missile programs comes largely following the formation in 2015 of the latest branch of the PLA, the Rocket Force. Tuesday's military parade featured 350 members of the force in their dark green uniforms.

Apart from missiles, China also showed off new technologies such as its "Sharp Sword" unmanned aerial vehicle believed capable of attacking targets such as radar stations and military bases, as well as drone submarines that could reach depths far deeper than those of crewed subs.

Drones are becoming increasingly important for the Chinese military in a range of fields, including for use by artillery units in reconnaissance and in damage evaluation, TVBS' Song said.

Technology gaps still remain with the U.S. and Russia, who have had longer to develop their strategies, especially in the nuclear field. Song said.

However, the advances align with the commander of the armed forces and President Xi Jinping's calls for a military that is capable of fighting and winning wars under modern conditions.



This image made from video shows the collapsed Nanfangao Bridge in Taiwan, which fell Tuesday, sending a burning oil tanker truck falling onto boats in the water below.

6 boaters missing as bridge falls in Taiwan

By RALPH JENNINGS Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan - A towering arch bridge over a bay in eastern Taiwan collapsed Tuesday, sending the span and a burning oil tanker truck falling onto boats in the water below. An air force helicopter, fishing vessels and more than 60 military personnel, includ-ing divers, were searching for possible

Six people were believed trapped on one of the fishing boats, the National Fire Agency said. Interior Minister Hsu Kuo-yung told reporters about five people were feared to have been on the bridge when it collapsed. Ten people were sent to hospitals, six of them with serious injuries.

The 460-feet-long bridge collapsed about 9:30 a.m. in Nanfangao, a tiny but often-crowded Pacific coast fishing

The weather at the time was sunny, but the collapse occurred hours after a typhoon swept by the island. Disaster relief officials would not say if the storm had weakened the bridge or give other details on the potential cause. Government-run Central News Agency said a bridge pier may have collapsed.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen



COAST GUARD A

This image made from a surveillance camera shows splashes after the Nanfangao Bridge collapsed.

said she hoped all government departments would do everything possible to save people and "keep the number of deaths and injuries as low as possible," CNA reported.

National Fire Agency spokesperson Su Hong-wei said the tanker's fall smashed three fishing boats. It also set off a fire on the tanker truck but it did not spread beyond the vehicle.

Of the 10 people hospitalized, six are Filipinos and three are Indonesians, the agency said in a statement. People from both countries regularly work on fishing boats registered in Taiwan, where pay is better than in their home countries

The center of Typhoon Mitag passed east of Taiwan on Monday night and early Tuesday, but the outer winds gusting up to 85 mph affected the island before the storm moved to the northeast. The storm injured 12 people, felled trees, damaged vehicles and caused power outages around the island.

Nanfangao Bridge is a tourist attraction in Yilan. It was opened in 1998 and was built to replace a lower bridge that prevented large fishing vessels from passing underneath.

According to the company that designed the nearly 60-foot-high bridge, MAA Consultants, it's the only singlespan arch bridge in Taiwan supported by cables and the second single archcable steel bridge in the world.

Video footage on Twitter showed a large truck almost getting across the bridge and then tumbling backward as the bridge collapsed into the water.

Catalonians mark 2 years since vote for independence

GIRONA, Spain - A few hundred secession supporters marched early Tuesday in Spain's north-eastern city of Girona to mark two years since a banned independence referendum that shook Span-

Larger protests were scheduled later in the day amid heightened security measures across the wealthy Catalonia region of 7.5 million people, where separatist sentiment has been on the rise for nearly a decade.

They are being watched by all sides as a sign of the independence movement's strength and its capacity to keep troublemakers from tarnishing its reputation of peaceful struggle.

The sensitive anniversary comes as Spain's Supreme Court is set to rule on a rebellion and sedition trial against a dozen Catalan politicians and activ-ists who were key protagonists in Catalonia's Oct. 1. 2017, independence referendum.

Tuesday's referendum anniversary protests took place amid a strong

police

presence.

Any ruling that doesn't absolve the defendants will be considered "unfair," grassroots pro-secession civil society groups announced Tuesday. calling for protests and "peace-ful civil disobedience" if the court rules otherwise.

The arrests last week of seven pro-independence activists who face possible terror-ism charges have also angered many in Catalonia, who liken the crackdown to an attempt by Spanish authorities to criminalize their political independence movement.

The activists were linked to the grassroots, self-appointed Committees for the Defense of the Republic, or CDRs, which have called

some of Tuesday's protests. Although the judicial probe is sealed by Spain's National Court, which typically has jurisdiction over terrorism-related cases, details of the interrogations of the activists have been leaked to Spanish media.

They largely paint a picture of a secretive, organized group who allegedly prepared explosives to wreak havoc in communications and key infrastructure and planned to occupy the regional Catalan parliament in Barcelona in response to the upcom-

ing Supreme Court's ruling.

Some of the publications linked the activities of the CDRs to the region's current and former sepa-

Spanish politicians and editorials have criticized separatist leaders for not condemning the activists' alleged plans

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who has been in a caretaker capacity since February and faces a repeated general election next month, delivered a stern warning Tuesday to the separatists. If regional separatist leaders break Spanish laws again he told Cadena Ser radio, central authorities would not hesitate to suspend the region's self-government and apply direct rule again, like they did two years ago after the divisive independence attempt.

Tuesday's referendum anniversary protests took place amid a strong police presence, especially in train stations and on highways.

In Girona, some activists threw eggs filled with red paint at riot police and overturned large trash containers. Marchers holding smoke torches shouted "Out with the occupying forces!" at the gates of the city's Civil Guard barracks before moving to the Spanish government's provincial delegation to stage

Starstruck Ukrainian president meets Tom Cruise

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine - Ukraine's leader isn't just trying to charm President Donald Trump — he's set his sights now on Tom Cruise too.

Mission impossible? Maybe not -Cruise is studying possible Ukrainian locations for an upcoming film, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskiy tapped his roots as a TV and film comedian when hosting Cruise in the Ukrainian presidential headquarters Monday night.

As Cruise walked in, he said "You're good-looking!" according to video excerpts released Tuesday by his office. The Hollywood star laughed and said

Zelenskiy joked about how exhausting it is to be president, and mentioned the stalled peace process for conflictravaged eastern Ukraine.

The video excerpts included no mention of Trump or the U.S. impeachment inquiry in which Ukraine plays a starring role.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Motorists see porn on electronic billboard

AUBURN HILLS
Police are investigating
after motorists traveling through
a Detroit suburb were stunned to
see a pornographic video playing
on an electronic billboard.

Auburn Hills police said the video played on the billboard along Interstate 75 near Michigan highway 59 for about a half-hour Saturday night before police contacted the company that owns the billboard and the images were removed. Police said multiple people called 911 after seeing the explicit video.

Police are investigating how the images ended up on a billboard, including whether someone hacked into the electronic sign's system.

Police seek witnesses to knife attack at mall

Authorities in Maryland said they are hoping to hear from witnesses who saw a knifewielding man shot dead by police officers after attacking five people at an outdoor shopping mall.

Baltimore County police on Sunday identified Jamaal Ramone Taylor, 31, of Baltimore in the stabbing spree at the Hunt Valley Towne Centre on Saturday afternoon

Police said Taylor stabbed four people with a folding knife and beat a fifth person before officers shot and killed him. Police said officers fired after Taylor refused repeated commands to drop the knife.

All five victims suffered injuries that weren't life-threatening and were transported to area hospitals for treatment.

Work on track for WWII naval vessel's move

EVANSVILLE — Officials said work could be completed in November on a project allowing the move of a restored World War II naval vessel to a more prominent location along the Ohio River in downtown Evansville.

Crews are building a visitors center and barges so the LST 325 troop landing ship can move to the former site of the Tropicana Evansville casino boat. Evansville Port Authority chairman Pat Wathen told the Evansville Courier & Press that the \$3.6 million project is on track and within budget after high initial construction bids delayed work.

The ship took part in the 1944 D-Day landing in France and has been based in Evansville since 2005. LST 325 board member Chris Donahue said the ship's nove is planned for April 2020.

KKK symbols found in woods near home

SNOHOMISH — A multiracial Washington state family raised concerns after Ku Klux Klan symbols were spray-painted on multiple trees near their home.

KOMO-TV reported that the



GREG EANS, THE (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AF

Urging girls to aim high

Emily Herron, a pilot from Beaver Dam, Ky., teaches a group of girls about her 1946 Piper J-3 Cub airplane during Girls Aviation Day at the Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport in Owensboro, Ky., on Saturday.

Anderson family has had tough conversations about race with their four adopted children, but the racially offensive graffiti crossed a line.

The family said the teenage son discovered the KKK symbols on six to eight trees as he walked through the woods next to their house heading to a lake.

Snohomish County deputies said an investigation is underway.

Police: Man killed for looking at fellow driver

AZ PHOENIX — Phoenix police have made an arrest in a March homicide in which the victim reportedly was shot for merely looking at another

man stopped at a red light.
Police arrested Nicolas Elliott, 30, Thursday on suspicion of murder and other crimes in the killing of Alex Mixon, 26.

Police said Mixon was shot after leaving the intersection and he then crashed his pickup.

Sgt. Tommy Thompson said there's no indication the men argued or exchanged words before the shooting but that detectives located witnesses who either said they were with Elliott at the time or that he later bragged about what he'd done.

Elliott was jailed in lieu of \$1 million bond.

THE CENSUS

The approximate number of bee stings suffered by a Southern California resident Saturday in Banning, Calif. The Desert Sun reported that the person, who was not identified, was transported to a hospital after being sting about 23 miles west of Palm Springs. Authority

ties said another person had a small number of stings and refused treatment by responders at the scene. Their medical conditions were not immediately known.

Battleship park gets grant to fight flooding

NC WILMINGTON — A North Carolina park containing a piece of history has received a grant to help protect it from an increase in flooding.

News outlets reported the N.C. Clean Water Management Fund awarded \$400,000 to Battleship North Carolina near the Cape Fear River last week.

The Battleship is working on a \$2 million effort to protect the park and ship from high water. Capt. Terry Bragg told StarNews of Wilmington the goal is to design and engineer a plan, create a living shoreline and construct a wetland near the parking lot.

Man charged with catching too-small fish

ISLAMORADA — A
Canadian man was
charged with possessing nearly

three dozen undersized fish in the Florida Keys.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Saturday that George Singh, 73, of Ontario, was charged with 31 counts of possession of undersized mangrove snapper. Singe was also charged with 27 counts of possession of fish that were over the bag limit.

Authorities said they found Singh with the fish in a bucket at the Whale Harbor Bridge in Islamorada. All but one of the mangrove snapper were under the legal size limit of 10 inches.

Veterans' memorial's bronze shoes stolen

ALBUQUERQUE

Authorities said
bronze shoes at an Albuquerque veterans' memorial meant
to honor those who served in the
U.S. war on terrorism have been
stolen.

New Mexico Veterans Memorial Foundation vice president James Lehner said the bronze shoes were stolen Friday night.

Michael Burd, with the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Board of Directors, said the five pairs of bronze shoes are worth thousands of dollars.

Lehner said thieves also took the M-16 and helmet at the Vietnam memorial.

Albuquerque police and the New Mexico Veterans Memorial said no arrests have been made.

Black bear knocks down, injures hiker

SOUTHBURY — Connecticut officials said a hiker who was knocked to the ground by a black bear was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police said a Newtown man was knocked down by a black bear while hiking near Lake Zoar on Saturday. The man, who is 38, was able to get away, and the bear took off into the woods. The man was taken to Danbury Hospital and has since been released.

Environmental police have not been able to find the bear. Wildlife biologists set up a trap in the area.

From wire reports

FACES



Director promises thrills in Thai cave rescue saga

By Tassanee Vejpongsa and Jerry Harmer Associated Press

Their story gripped the world: determined divers racing against time and water to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach trapped for more than two weeks in a flooded cave deep inside a northern Thai mountain.

The ordeal in late June and early July 2018 had barely ended when filmmakers began their own race to get the nail-biting drama onto cinema screens. The first of those projects will premiere this weekend, when director Tom Waller's "The Cave" shows at the Busan Film Festival in South Korea.

The film was shot over three months earlier this year and has been in post-production. The 45-year-old Thai-born, British-raised filmmaker said the epic tale of the Wild Boars football team was a story he simply had to tell.

The boys and their coach entered the Tham Luang cave complex after soccer practice and were quickly trapped inside by rising floodwater. Despite a massive search, the boys spent nine nights lost in the cave before they were spotted by an expert diver. It would take another eight days before they were all safe.

Waller was visiting his father in Ireland when he saw television news accounts of

"I thought this would be an amazing

story to tell on screen," he said. But putting the parts together after

their dramatic rescue proved to be a challenge. Thailand's government, at the time led by a military junta, became very protective of the story, barring unauthorized access to the Wild Boars or their parents. Waller often feared his production might be shut down.

His good fortune was that the events at the Tham Luang cave in Chiang Rai province had multiple angles and interesting characters. Especially compelling were the stories of the rescuers, particularly the expert divers who rallied from around the world. He decided to make a film "about the volunteer spirit of the rescue.

"I took the view that this was going to be a story about the people we didn't know about, about the cave divers who came all the way from across the planet," Waller said. "They literally dropped everything to go and help, and I just felt that that was more of an exciting story to tell, to find out how these boys were brought out and what they did to get them out.

Waller even had more than a dozen key rescue personnel play themselves.

Some scenes were filmed on location at the entrance to the actual Tham Luang cave but most of the action was shot elsewhere, Waller said.

We filmed in real water caves that were flooded, all year-round," he said. "It is very authentic in terms of real caves, real flooded tunnels, real divers and real





Top: Director Tom Waller's film "The

Cave" shoots on location in Thailand. Waller, above in an interview and on

location with actors, says the movie was filmed in water caves that were flooded.

creepy-crawlies in there. So it was no mean feat trying to get a crew to go and film in these caves

"The Cave" will be in wide release in Thailand on Nov. 28.

'Stranger Things' gets fourth season on Netflix

It's happening: "Stranger Things" is getting a fourth season to chronicle the sci-fi exploits of Eleven and her crew and further heighten your sense of 1980s nostalgia

Netflix on Monday announced its flagship series' renewal with a teaser clip showcasing a spooky "Stranger Things 4" logo and ing a spooky Stranger Timigs 4 logo and the ominous declaration that "We're not in Hawkins anymore." The development also came with word that the streaming giant had signed the series' creators and showrunners, Matt and Ross Duffer, to a multivear film and series overall deal.

The streaming service previously said that Season 3 was streamed by a recordbreaking 40.7 million household accounts in its first four days, with 18.2 million finishing the entire series in that time.

'Clueless' actress Stacev Dash charged with domestic battery

An actress known for appearing in the 1990s comedy "Clueless" faces a domestic battery charge in Florida.

A Pasco County Sheriff's Office report says 52-year-old Stacey Dash was arrested Sunday night.

The report says Dash got into a verbal argument with a man at a New Port Richev apartment. Deputies say she pushed the man and slapped his face. Investigators noted that the man had red scratch marks on his left arm. The reports say no alcohol or drugs were involved.

Besides portraying Dionne Davenport in "Clueless," Dash has film and television credits beginning in the 1980s. She worked as a Fox News commentator from 2014 to

Other news

■ Grammy-nominated songwriter-producer busbee, who co-wrote Maren Morris' breakout hit "My Church" and also crafted songs for Keith Urban, Lady Antebellum, Pink, Shakira and Florida Georgia Line, has died. He was 43. Warner Records confirmed his death in a statement released Sunday but offered no details on the cause of death. His real name was Michael James Ryan. Jessye Norman, the renowned inter-

national opera star whose passionate soprano voice won her four Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts and the Kennedy Center Honor, died Monday, according to family spokesperson Gwendolyn Quinn. She was 74. Norman was one of the rare black singers to attain worldwide stardom in the opera world. She sang the works of Wagner, but was not limited to opera or classical music, performing songs by Duke Ellington and others as well.

Snipes says he's moving on from 'Blade' character

By RYAN PEARSON Associated Press

The news that another actor was cast as vampire hunter Blade came as a surprise to Wesley Snipes, who portraved the character in three successful films, but he says he's moving on.

Marvel Studios announced at this summer's Comic-Con that the Oscar winner Mahershala Ali would play the comics character in its blockbuster cinematic universe.

Snipes' last turn in the role was 2004's "Blade: Trinity."

"People are very, very sneaky. They try to make it about the actors. And it's not about me and him," Snipes told The Associated Press in an interview. "Flattery — what do they say? Imitation is the best form of flattery. Yeah. So you know, it's something that he has acknowledged he wanted to do, and his family wanted him to do it. So I'm appreciative of getting the love. And I've created something that others want to carry on, and maybe put their own stamp on it."

Snipes, who trained in martial arts, is working on a different action-focused project.

'So we did that ('Blade'). That's all great. But we got something else that we going to rock," Snipes said. "So all of that stuff that you saw in the 'Blade' franchise, we got something that's going to come out that I think people will be pleasantly, pleasantly pleased." Snipes spoke to The Associated Press while

promoting "Dolemite Is My Name," which opens in limited release Oct. 4. He plays the director and co-star of "Dolemite" in the Netflix movie about filmmaker Rudy Ray Moore and his creation of the 1975 Blayploitation classic. Eddie Murphy portrays Moore.

"As an artist, I don't stay in one spot," Snipes said. "I'm constantly pushing the envelope of my creativity.

Wesley Snipes promotes "Dolemite Is My Name" Sept. 28 in Los Angeles.

RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP







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OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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Interpreting tighter visa policy as unfair

By TRIIDY RUBIN The Philadelphia Inquirer

part from Ukraine-gate, another White House scandal revved up recently, almost unnoticed.

The White House effort to block legal immigration shifted into overdrive. State Department announced last week it would slash the already shrunken U.S. refugee program almost in half, to 18 000 admissions over the next 12 months nearly eliminating America's historic role as a safe haven.

And the Trump team is trying to limit the impact of a recent D.C. District Court ruling that it end yearslong delays in granting special immigrant visas for thousands of Afghans and Iraqis who helped the U.S. military — as mandated by Congress.

What kind of moral bankrupts try to shut our doors to those who saved American lives?

Here's the answer: These moves are part of a crusade by White House adviser Stephen Miller to slash legal refugee admissions to zero, if possible. Even before the latest move, the Trump administration had already cut refugee admissions this year by one-third to 30,000. (Historically, the number used to be around 95,000.)

"With one final blow, the Trump administration has snuffed out Lady Liberty's torch and ended our nation's legacy of compassion and welcome," said the Rev. John L. McCullough, president of Church World Service, a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations.

Never mind that demographers point out that U.S. population growth has hit its lowest level since 1937. Without immigrants, the United States faces a graying population - like Japan and Europe - that will be unable to provide sufficient tax revenue

Even more shocking is the White House willingness to betray Iraqis and Afghans who are at risk because they helped the U.S. military. Last week's court case, Afghan and Iraqi Allies v Pompeo, revealed that 14,000 Iraqi and Afghan applicants for SIV visas have been waiting for years in dangerous conditions. This, despite a legal requirement that their cases be decided within nine months.

Administration callousness beggars belief. Many of these applicants and their families have been hiding for years under death threats. Meantime, State Department data shows that only 1,649 Afghans got SIV visas in 2018, a 60% drop from 2017.

As for Iraqis, the situation is far worse. Those in greatest danger - such as military interpreters and their families - have been tossed into a huge pool of applicants also entitled to visas because they worked for U.S. civilians. That backlog has reached 100,000, Under Miller, only 51 Iragis were admitted in 2018 (as compared with 10,000

"They (the SIV applicants) served bravely in support of our missions abroad, and we promised them a pathway to safety in return." pointed out Deepa Alagesan, the supervising attorney who brought the successful court case on behalf of the International Refugee Assistance Project.

Under pressure from Congress, 4,000 of the rare refugee slots will supposedly be reserved for Iraqis who worked for the U.S. military. But will they ever receive them?

To understand the sheer cruelty of the current immigration system, consider the story of the al-Baidhani brothers from Baghdad, who both worked for the U.S. Army. Khalid Baidhani was shot in the face and the hand, and his brother Wissam

was threatened with death; his uncle, also a translator, was murdered.

The brothers made it to America, thanks to Herculean efforts by Army Reserve Sgt. Peter Farley, Their immediate family, parents and vounger siblings, entitled by law to follow, went through five years of background checks, quit jobs and sold a house, furniture and car. They were set to arrive in August 2016. The day before their departure, the U.S. Embassy called and said they needed another background check. They are still waiting, living in total limbo, fearful for their lives and subsisting on the charity of relatives.

Now a computer technician in Alexandria, Va., Khalid told me, "If anyone finds out what we did, that's it, my family is

"I still feel proud of what I did," Khalid said. "I am proud to be a U.S. citizen, and that I worked with the U.S. Army, I was a bridge between the U.S. Army and Iragis.

"But you feel guilty that you are the cause of their suffering because working with the U.S. Army caused this to happen. And I am not proud of the way the government treats my family. I am desperate to get them back. And get this: After eight years, the Baid-

hanis have just been told they need to repeat the whole interview/checking process. Despite the appeals of U.S. lawmakers. and a Change.org petition with more than 135,000 signatures, the Baidhani family is still being denied visas. Along with thousands of other Afghans and Iraqis who helped Americans stay safe. In my mind, that is a scandal that tars

President Donald Trump as much as anything else he's done.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer

Political winds allow Dems to move left on taxes

By PAUL WALDMAN The Washington Post

week ago, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.,, having been beaten out of the gate with a wealth tax by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., released a proposal for his own tax on the richest Americans, one even more sweeping than Warren's. And he has now delivered a new plan to address economic inequality aimed at corporations.

While Sanders may be still be on the left of the Democratic Party, the economic proposals this campaign is producing show how much the conversation around the economy has changed among Democrats, even those who are ostensibly more moderate. Here's what Sanders is proposing:

"Under Sanders' plan, the government would increase a firm's corporate tax rate if its highest-naid employee earns more than 50 times what its average worker does an attempt to encourage companies to distribute their profits more equitably. The plan would apply only to companies with more than \$100 million in annual revenue.

So if the median employee makes \$40,000 a year and the CEO makes more than \$2 million a year, the corporation would have to pay a higher tax rate.

I'm a bit skeptical about this as a policy solution, since it seems more likely that if it were in place a company would find ways to reduce their chief executive's pay to avoid the tax rather than raising the pay of employees. But there's no question that the gap between CEO pay and workers' pay is obscene. In 2018, according to the Economic Policy Institute, the ratio of CEO to median worker's pay at top corporations last year was a remarkable 278 to 1 (or 221

to 1 depending on which measure you use to account for stock options). At some large corporations, the ratio is more than 1,000 to 1. Over the past 40 years, while worker pay has grown by only 12% in inflation-adjusted terms, CEO pay has grown by more than 1,000%.

Sanders' approach to this problem is a kind of outside-in one: Tell the companies they'll be punished if the outcome of their pay reflects this glaring inequality, and then let them figure out how to fix it.

Warren, in contrast, has a proposal that is in many ways more fundamental. She would mandate that large corporations serve the interests of all stakeholders (including their workers and the communities where they're located). And she would require that 40% of the seats on corporate boards be filled by people elected by employees. "Codetermination" systems are in place in other countries, most notably Germany, where they seem to produce less short-term thinking (and lower CEO pay) without sacrificing economic success

What's striking about these kind of proposals is that they're intended to question some of the basic premises on which our economic system has been operating for decades - and that's now mainstream thinking in the Democratic Party. Even Joe Biden, who's running as a moderate, is considering proposing a financial transac-tions tax on Wall Street, which used to be something only advocated by progressives like Warren and Sanders.

To see what an extraordinary change this is, let's recall the tax policies of the last two Democratic presidents. In 1993, Bill Clinton passed a budget that included. among other things, an increase in the top income tax rate from 31% to 39.6%. At the time, Republicans predicted that would immediately plunge America into an outright economic cataclysm. Of course, the opposite happened: We experienced a dramatic boom

But the point is that even though it raised plenty of revenue and helped lead to a balanced budget, Clinton's tax increase was relatively modest. Just seven years before,

the top rate had been 50%.

Then after George W. Bush cut the top rate to 35%, Barack Obama negotiated a deal whereby the Bush cuts would be retained for all but the wealthiest, bringing the top rate back to 39.6% — an even small-er increase than Clinton's. In 2016, Hillary Clinton offered a proposal that would have raised taxes on the top 1% of earners by

So while Democrats have wanted to raise taxes on the wealthy since they were dramatically lowered under Ronald Reagan. until now the ideas have been about tweak ing things around the edges. While it's not inaccurate to say the party has "moved left" in the time since, what has really happened is that Democrats have decided that it's politically safe to advocate for things that they probably supported years ago but worried wouldn't fly with the electorate.

And they still might not. But with inequality at unprecedented levels and polls consistently showing that wide majorities of Americans believe the biggest problem with the tax system is that corporations and wealthy people get away without paying their fair share, the last thing Republicans probably want is to have an argument about whether we should be tougher on corporations and the wealthy.

But that is indeed the argument we're going to have in 2020.

Paul Waldman is a senior writer at The American Prospect.

BUSINESS/WEATHER



MARK I ENNIHAN/A

Amid skepticism about money-losing WeWork's prospects for turning a profit, the New York-based office rental company has canceled plans for an initial public stock offering.

WeWork shelves plan for IPO, works to fix battered image

By Alexandra Olson and Stan Choe Associated Press

NEW YORK — WeWork's new leaders shelved plans to enter the stock market Monday as they sought to repair the battered image of a company that appeared to revolutionize the office rental industry and was poised just weeks ago to go public with a valuation of nearly \$50 billion.

The decision came less than a week after co-founder Adam Neunman stepped aside as chief executive officer. His corporate governance practices had raised conflict-of-interest questions that compounded skepticism about the money-losing company's prospects for turning a profit.

The suspended LPO raised an immediate funding challenge for WeWork, which had counted on a usual content of the content of the content of the content of the company, which began as a co-working space in Manhattan in 2010, had planned to expand in many of the 111 cities where it

now operates and launch in up to 169 additional cities around the world.

Analysts have said WeWork's outlook could improve if it raised cash and slowed its growth to conserve capital, even though that would lower its long-term value. Its revenue has more than doubled each year since 2016, mostly through its acquisition of new property leases.

"It's a dangerous line they have to walk. You have to keep up the revenue growth, and for that you have to keep adding properties, you have to keep getting investment or issue stocks or bonds," said Dan Morgan, senior portfolio manager for Synovus Trust.

Without revenue growth, "you lose the whole magnet of why anyone would be interested in the stock because you aren't profitable," he added.

WeWork's new co-CEOs, Artie Minson and Sebastian Gunningham, said the company was suspending its IPO to "focus on our core business, the fundamentals of which remain strong."

Southwest pilots: Max return unlikely until February, March

By DAVID KOENIG

PLANO, Texas — Pilot union leaders at Southwest Airlines say it could be February or March before their airline resumes flights using the Boeing 737 Max.

That's much later than projected by either Southwest or Boeing

Union officials said Monday that the grounded plane's return will take longer for several reasons, including pilot training requirements and possible changes to checklists that pilots are expected to perform when some thing goes wrong with a plane.

The Max has been grounded since March after two crashes killed 346 people. Southwest, the biggest operator of the plane, has dropped the Max from its schedule through Jan. 5.

Jon Weaks, president of the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association, said the union has been uncomfortable with Southwest's timetable.

"On our side, we think we're looking at maybe even February or March," he said during a meeting of pilot union representatives from several airlines

Southwest spokeswoman Brandy King said the airline is waiting for more information from federal regulators about the timing of the plane's return.

"We continue our work on schedule revisions but do not have any new information on timing for MAX return to service," she said

Boeing spokesman Gordon Johndroe said, "While the decision is up to the regulators, we continue to work towards return to service of the MAX in the fourth quarter of this year."

Boeing is making changes to the Max's flight control computers and rewriting software that mistakenly activated on flights in Indonesia last October and Ethiopia in March, pushing the noses of the planes down based on faulty sensor readings. The changes are intended to make the automated software, called MCAS, less powerful and easier for pilots to control.

Greg Bowen, Southwest pilots' union chairman for training matters, said even after that work is done, the Federal Aviation Administration will need to decide what type of pilot training will be needed before the planes fly again. He said the FAA is considering revising a half-dozen pilot checklists related to MCAS and flight control computers, which he said would take at least 30 days.

The FAA declined to comment. John DeLeeuw, safety chairman of the pilots' union at Ameri-MARKET WATCH

Sept. 30, 2019

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can Airlines, said American plans to fly two of its grounded Max jets from storage in New Mexico to its maintenance base in Tulsa, Okla., this week or next. It will need FAA permission for the flights.

DeLeeuw said American wants to perform maintenance on the jets, 'but also to see how the airplanes are flying after being in the desert for six, seven months."

EXCHANGE RATES

\$1.1173

Military rate: Euro costs (Oct. 2).....

Dollar buys (Oct. 2).... British pound (Oct. 2)

| Standard | Standard

WEATHER OUTLOOK







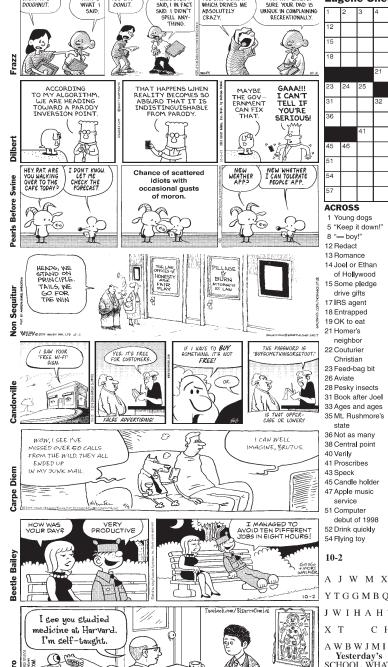
30-year bond

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN COSMETOLOGY SCHOOL. WHAT WOULD THEY NAME ONE OF THE FIRST STANDARD COURSES? CUTTING CLASS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals G

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Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take ecautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is no liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in

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2008 Peugeot 807 Van (7 seat)

- \$5,000.00 - 72,409 miles
(116,531km) German Spec.
Newly Inspected, it is good until
05 Sept. 2020 Manual Diesel
with (green 4 sticker) Electric
stilding doors Email
fanev01@hotmail.com

Autos for Sale US Spec car purchased in Anzona 4 Door Black Pearl 6 speed manual Upgraded Cutch Upgraded ECU 300+ HP Upgraded ECU 300+ HP Upgraded ECU 300+ HP Upgraded ECU 300+ HP Upgraded Forge trake make no deliy driver two 300 me included Call: 1004003100 included Call: 100400310 included Call: 10040031

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Autos for Sale 142

Autos for Sale - UK 154 2018 Audi Q3 (American spec)
- \$29,500.00 - 200 HP turbo
charged unleaded engine Automatic 7 year/s0,000 mile warranty S-line/Premium Plus edition Premium Bose sound system with subwpoter Power
moon roof Recently serviced by
Audi-passad all checks UK

Auto Parts 180 Winter tires & wheels for VW Golf GTI MK7 = \$350.00 -Winter tires&wheels for 2015 GTI MK7 Pirelli 205/50 R17 93V M&S _____675 wo67549@gmail.com

Di African Ebony Letter Opene and Fertility Dolls - \$30.00 -Letter openers and S Fertility dolls from The a. West Africa. PCS Sale 49-6571-9522421

Furniture 510 sn drop front hard-dosk in great 5' H x 36' W X 16' drawer, raised top 5 below, mounted stelle feet. Reason-K Buyer picks up.

English Oak Ladderback Chairs — \$800.00 - Pair of English Oak Lancashire Ladder Back Chairs. 19th Century. Buyer picks up PCS Sale. Leave fel " and I will contact. you. Call: contact you +49-6571-9522421

English Wicker Picnic Hampers
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English Wicker Picnic Hamper
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Call: +49-6571-9522421 952 Mahogany Sheraton Reviva Chair (from UK) - \$125.00 Chair (from UK) - \$125.00 Sheraton revival painted ma-hogany salon chair Shield sha-hogany salon chair Shield sha-stuff over seat, square taperec legs. Circa 1900. Condition excellent. Buyer picks up. PCS Sale: Call: +49-6571-9522421

Furniture

Œ nopoly Norwich (En cial Edition - \$25.00 -Monopoly Norwich

Œ US Army Vintage Fort Dix Scar = \$10.00 - Vintage US Arm Fort Dix, New Jersey, Scart Call: +49-6571-9522421

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SCOREBOARD

第3種郵便物設可

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Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Announced
RHP Chandler Shepherd has cleared
waivers and was assigned outright to
Norfolk (IL).

Norfolk (IL).

Norfolk (IL).

HOUSTON ASTROS — Promoted Peter brills to assistant general manager, petulia to assistant general manager, and to assistant general manager, petuliation, Bill Firkus to senior director of baseball strategy, Armando Velasco to senior director of baseball operations and Charles Cook director of player evaluation.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Fired manper Brad Ausmus.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Announced will

SEATTLE MARINERS — Announced will not be renewing the contracts of third base and outfield coach Chris Prieto and bullpen coach Jim Brower. Reassigned pitching coach Paul Davis within the or-ganization.

ganization.

National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — An
nounced Darnell Coles, Mike Fetters
Robby Hammock, Eric Hinske, David
Ketty, Jerr Haron, Tollier David
Heart March League
Heart Heart March
League
Lea

National Basketball Association CHICAGO BULLS — Signed Gs Perrion Callandret, Milton Doyle and Justin Si-FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Suspended Oakland LB Vontaze
Burfict for the rest of the season for repeated violations of unnecessary rough-

ARIZONA CARDINALS - Released S

AKIZUNA CARDINALS — Released S J. Swearinger. Re-signed WR A.J. Rich-rdson to the practice squad. Placed WR phnnie Dixon on IR. ATLANTA FALCONS — Acquired S

Johnathan Cyprien and a sixth-round draft pick from the Philadelphia Eagles for LB Duke Riley and a seventh-round att pick. CHICAGO BEARS — Waived DL Abdul-

lah Anderson.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed DE Jonathan

Wynn to the practice squad. Released DT Ray Smith from the practice squad. HOCKEY

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Waived F Daniel
brong and D Luke Schenn.
ARIZONA COYOTES — Assigned G Adin

AMIZONA COVIES - Assigned G Adin Hill to Tucson (AHL). BUFFALO SABRES - Placed Fs Remi Elie, Curtis Lazar and Scott Wilson and D Casey Nelson on waivers. Assigned Fs Rasmus Asplund and Tage Thomp-son and D Lawrence Pilut to Rochester (ALI).

(AHL). CAROLINA HURRICANES — Waived G

Anton Forsberg.

EDMONTON OILERS — Waived F Sam
Gagner and D Brandon Manning.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Waived D

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Waived D Steven Santin. NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned D Jeremy Groleau to Binghamton (AHL); vol. 19 March 19

Casey DeSmith.

SOCCER

USL Championship LOUDOUN UNITED — Signed F Alioune Ndour for the remainder of the 2019 sea-

TENNIS
International Tennis Federation
ITF — Reappointed Mary Pierce and
Mark Woodforde as the two ITF Board
Artheter persentatives to serve the 2015Artheter persentatives to serve the 2015Artheter persentatives to serve the 2015Treasurer, who will continue as chairman of the finance committee katrina
Adams, Bernard Giudicelli and Bulat Utemuratov vice predidents.

BROWN — Named Rufus Biggs men's
assistant crew coach.

BRUWN — Named Rurus Biggs mens assistant crew coach. NORTH CAROLINA STATE — Suspend-ed F DJ Funderburk from the men's bas-ketball team for violation of team policy. SOUTH CAROLINA — Named Andrew Adams men's assistant tennis coach and Kyle Koch men's volunteer assistant ten-

nis coach.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE — Named Jerod Wims men's and women's track and field and cross country coach.

College football

Top 25 schedule

Friday, Oct. 4 No. 18 UCF at Cincinnati Saturday, Oct. 5 No. 3 Georgia at Tennessee No. 4 Ohio State vs. No. 25 Michigan

ate
No. 5 LSU vs. Utah State
No. 6 Oklahoma at Kansas
No. 7 Auburn at No. 10 Florida
No. 8 Wisconsin vs. Kent State
No. 9 Notre Dame vs. Bowling Green
No. 11 Texas at West Virginia
No. 12 Penn State vs. Purdue
No. 13 Oreg

No. 15 Washington at Stanford No. 16 Boise State at UNLV No. 21 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech No. 24 SMU vs. Tulsa

FCS Coaches poll

Records Through S	ept. 2	28	
	cord		Pvs
1. North Dakota State (26)	4-0	650	1
2. James Madison	4-1		2
3. South Dakota State	3-1		
4. Kennesaw State	4-1		4
5. Weber State	2-2		6
6. Illinois State	3-1		8
	4-1		11
8. Villanova	5-0		
9. Montana	4-1		
	2-2		
10. Towson	3-2		
12. UC Davis	2-3		5
13. Northern Iowa	2-2	340	7
14. Furman		329	15
15. Nicholls	2-2		9
16. North Carolina A&T	3-1		18
17. Youngstown State	4-0	248	20
18. Delaware	3-2		19
Southeastern Louisiana	3-1	172	22
Jacksonville State	3-2		
Eastern Washington	2-3		
22. Maine	2-3		
23. Princeton	2-0		23
24. Stony Brook	4-1	67	NR
25. Houston Baptist	4-1	34	
25 SF Missouri State	2-2	34	NR

25. Houston Bäphist 4-1 34 NR R SCE Missourceting Votes: Tennessee Tech. 23; South Carolina State, 21; Yaler 19; Austin Peay, 15; Dartmouth, 13; North Dakota, 13; Sacramento State, 12; Sam Houston State, 12; Elon, 9; Samford, 9; Idaho State, 5; Campbell, 3; Indiana State, 2; Central Conn. State, 1; The Citadel, 1.

STATS FCS poll

Records Through Sept. 28							
Rec	ord	Pts	Pvs				
1. North Dakota State (152)	4-0	3968	1				
	4-1	3786	2				
3. South Dakota State	3-1	3670	2				
4. Weber State	2-2	3349					
5. Villanova	5-0	3178	8				
6. Montana State	4-1	3058	7				
7. Kennesaw State	4-1	2928	6				
8. Montana	4-1	2594	18				
9. Towson	3-2	2370	10				
10. Illinois State	3-1	2307	14				
11. Central Arkansas	3-1	2096	15				
12, UC Davis	2-3	2021	4				
13, UNI	2-2	1962	9				
14. Furman	3-2	1943	16				
15. North Carolina A&T		1754					
16. Nicholls		1505					
17. Southeastern Louisiana	3-1	1393	19				
18. Youngstown State	4-0	1253	22				
19. Delaware	3-2	1167	20				
20. Maine		1147					
21. Jacksonville State		892					
	2-3	731	21				
23. SE Missouri State		616					
24. Stony Brook	4-1	527	NR				

25. Princeton 2-0 483 NR
Others: Dartmouth 146, South Carolina State 113, Austin Peay 99, Sam Houston State 97, Houston Baptist 86, Elon 82,
Indiana State 66, Yale 66, Citadel 40, Sacramento State 32, Samford 30, Wofford
26, Tennessee Tech 24, Southern Illinois
23, Central Connecticut State 17, Idaho
State 13, Eastern Kentucky 12, Alcorn
State 2, North Dakota 2, Cal Poly 1.

AFCA Division II Coaches poll Records through Sept. 28

	ĸecora	Pts	PVS	
1. Valdosta State (30)		774	1	
2. Ferris State (1)	4-0	761	2	
3. Minnesota State	4-0	723	3	
4. Tarleton State (1)	4-0	705	4	
5. Notre Dame (OH)	4-0		- 5	
6. Quachita Baptist	4-0	627	ĕ	
7. NW Missouri State	4-0	621	2 3 4 5 6 7	
8. Lenoir-Rhyne	4-0		8	
9. Grand Valley State	4-0		9	
9. Grand Valley State				
Slippery Rock	4-0			
11. Indianapolis	4-0	481	12	
Minnesota Duluth	4-0	457	13	
Colo. School of Min	es 4-0	437	14	
14. West Chester	4-0	350	16	
Pittsburg State	4-0	322	t18	
16. Wingate	4-0	305	17	
17. Central Missouri	4-0			
18, CSU-Pueblo	3-1		20	
19. Indiana (Pa.)		232		
20. Bowie State	4-0			
21. Texas A&M-Comme				
	106 5-1	120	11	
22. Harding		118	.22	
23. Angelo State	4-0	116	NR	

23. Angelo State 4-0 110 rwr 24. Kutztowa 25. West Alabama 3-1 70 24 Others Receiving Votes: Midwestern State, 49; Truman, 44; Virginia Union, 9; Florida, 5; Detta Florida, 5; Delta State, 4; West Texas A&M, 4; Henderson State, 2; Galifornia (Pa.).

AFCA Division III Coaches poll

, o,			
Records through S	ept.	28	
		Pts	
 M.HBaylor (Tex.) (44) 	3-0	1314	1
2. Mount Union (Ohio) (9)	3-0	1281	2
3. Wisconsin-Whitewater	3-0	1205	3
4. St. John's (Minn.)		1160	ă
5. North Central (III.)		1092	
6. Hardin-Simmons (Tex.)		1059	
7. Muhlenberg (Pa.)	4-0	955	8
8. Berry (Ga.)	4-0		10
9. Wheaton (III.)	3-0	839	t11
10. Wesley (Del.)	3-0	827	
11. Bethel (Minn.)	3-0	777	13
12. Ithaca (N.Y.)	3-0	623	14
13. Wartburg (Iowa)	4-0	591	15
14. Delaware Valley (Pa.)	3-1	514	17
15, John Carroll (Ohio)	2-1		
16. Salisbury (Md.)	2-0	481	16
17. St. Thomas (Minn.)	2-1	435	6
18. Johns Hopkins (Md.)	3-1	415	18
19. Redlands (Calif.)	3-0	380	20
20. Wisconsin-La Crosse			
	2-1		
21. Hobart (N.Y.)	4-0		22
22. Linfield (Ore.)	1-1		
23. Trine (Ind.)	3-0		
24. Wisconsin-Platteville	3-0		NR
25. Case Western Reserve	3-0	115	25

24. Misconsin-Platteville 3-0 149 NR
25. Case Western Reserve 3-0 115 25
Others Receiving Votes: Susquished (Natural Parkers Susquished (Natural Parkers Natural Parkers Natur

Schedule

Schedule
Thursday, Oct. 3
SOUTH
SOUTH
Ga. Southern southern (1-4)
Friday, Oct. 4
Friday, Oct. 4
Friday, Oct. 5
Friday, Oct. 6
Friday, Oct. 7

Rhode Island (0-4) at Brown (1-1)
Lehigh (1-3) at Colgate (0-5)
Howard (1-4) at Harvard (1-1)
Lehigh (1-3) at Colgate (0-5)
Howard (1-4) at Harvard (1-1)
Columbia (1-1) at Princetor (2-0)
Fordham (2-3) at Vale (2-0)
Fordham (2-1)
Fordham (2

Abilene Christian (2-3) at Lamar (2-3)

Ablene Christian (2-3) at Lamar (2-3) Tulsa (2-2) at SMU (5-6) UTSA (1-3) at LEP (1-3) UTSA (1-3) at Colorado (3-1) Arizona (3-1) at Colorado (3-1) Arizona (3-1) at Colorado (1-3) UTSA (1-3) UTSA (1-3) at San Diego (1-2) S. Utsh (1-4) at Portland St. (2-3) S. Utsh (1-4) at New Mexico St. (0-5) California (4-1) at Oregon (3-1) at Colorado (1-3) UTSA (1-3) at Sacramento St. (2-4) San Diego St. (3-1) at Colo. St. (1-4) Washington (4-1) at Saraford (2-3) Salos St. (6-4) at UTSA (1-3) UT

Tennis

Japan Open Tuesday At Ariake Coliseum Tokyo Purse: \$1,895,290

Purses \$1,985,290
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor (seedings in parentheses): Merr's Singles
Rad Mrs' Singles
Rad Mrs' Singles
Rad Mrs' Singles
Rod Mrs' Singles
Rod

Round Of 16 Round Of 16

Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, and Lucas Pouille, France, def. Jurgen Melzer and Oliver Marach, Austria, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 10-8.

10-8. Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (2), France, def. Benoit Paire, France, and Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, 6-4,

Nikola Mektic and Franko Skugor, Croatia, def. Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (1), Argentina, 6-4,

7-6 (3). Artem Sitak, New Zealand, and Divij Sharan, India, def. Luke Bambridge, Brit-ain, and Ben Mclachlan, Japan, 6-2, 6-3.

China Open

China Open
Tuesday
At National Tennis Center
Purses \$3,515,225
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor, the Content of Cont

def. Christin McHale, United Shates, 6-4, 6-0.
Polona Hercog, Slovenia, def. Angleus Kraber (Li) Germany, 6-4, 6-2.
Polona Hercog, Slovenia, def. Angleus Kraber (Li) Germany, 6-4, 6-2.
Polona Hercog, Slovenia, def. Angleus Kraber (Li) Gurlary, 6-4, 6-2.
Polona (Li) Hercog, 1-4, 6-4, 6-7.
Man Xi Mers Doubles (Mars Mangleus) Harmang, China, 6-6, 6-4, 10-7.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Filip Polasek, Slovakia, def. Michael Venus, New Zeath, 19-7.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Filip Polasek, 19-7.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Marcelo Helo (Z), Brazil, def. Daniel Svans and Kraber (Li) Grant (L

John Isner, United States, and Alexan der Zverev, Germany, def. Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies (4), Germany, 4-6, 7-5, 10-7.

and Andreas Mies (4), Germany, 4-6, 7-5, 10-7.

**Momen's Double Memors and Mexico Memors and Memors and

Pro basketball

WNBA playoffs

(x-if necessary)
Finals
(Best-of-five)
Washington 1, Connecticut 0
Sunday: Washington 95, Connecticut

Tuesday: at Washington Sunday: at Connecticut x-Tuesday, Oct 8: at Connecticut x-Thursday, Oct. 10: at Washington

Pro soccer

X N C N C O C

Houston

Vancouver

MLS

Easter	n Co	nfe	ren	ce		
	w	L	т	Pts	GF	GA
NYC FC	17	6	10	61	61	41
Atlanta	17	12	4	55	55	42
-Philadelphia	16	10	7	55	57	48
D.C. United	13	10	10	49	42	38
New York	14	13	6	48	53	48
Toronto FC	12	10	11	47	56	52
ew England	11	10	12	45	49	54
hicago	9	12	12	39	50	45
Iontreal	11	17	-5	38	44	60
olumbus	10	15	8	38	39	46
rlando City	9	14	10	37	42	47
incinnati	6	22	- 5	23	31	75
Wester	ηČ	onfe	eren	ice		
	w	L	т	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	20	4	9	69	82	36
Minn, United	15	10	8	53	52	42
Seattle	15	10	8	53	51	49

51 49 56 55 45 41 49 48 48 46 51 52 57 60 49 61 45 57 37 58 51 50 46 45 44 42 38 37 34 x-LA Galaxy 3 5 7 9 5 6 8 14 13 13 12 15 15 Real Salt Lake 15 13 12 13 12 10 FC Dallas San Jose Colorado Sporting KC

11

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Sunday's games

Sunday's games

Toronto FC 2, Chicago 2, tie
Orlando City 1, Cincinnati 1, tie
Columbus 2, Philadelphia 0
Atlanta 1, Montreal 1, tie
New England 2, New York City FC 0
DC. United 0, New York 0, tie
Colorado 3, FC Dallas 0
Vancouver 4, LA Galaxy 3 Vancouver 4, LA Galaxy 3 Los Angeles FC 1, Minnesota 1, tie Real Salt Lake 2, Houston 1 Seattle 1, San Jose 0 Portland 2, Sporting Kansas City 2, tie Sunday, October 6 New England at Atlanta Cincinnati at D.C. United Sporting Kansas City at FC Dallas

Sporting Kansas City at FC Dallas LA Galaxy at Houston Colorado at Los Angeles FC New York at Montreal New York at Montreal Chicago at Orlando City New York City FC at Philadelphia San Jose at Portland Minnesota at Seattle Columbus at Toronto FC Real Salt Lake at Vancouver NWSL

	w	L	т	Pts	GF	G.
orth Carolina	14	5	4	46	51	2
nicago	14	8	2	44	41	2
ortland	11	6	6	39	40	3
eign FC	10	6	7	37	25	2
ah Royals FC	9	10	4	31	23	2
ashington	8	8	6	30	27	2
ouston	7	11	5	26	20	3
y Blue FC	5	13	5	20	18	3
lando	4	15	3	15	22	4

Note: Three points for victory, one

Ch

Ut

point for tie.

Saturday's games

Washington 2, North Carolina 1
Chicago 2, Utah FC 1 Sunday's games
Orlando Pride 1, Sky Blue FC 1, tie
Reign FC 2, Portland 0
Saturday, October 5
Washington at Orlando

Saturday, October 12 Saturday, October 12 Sky Blue FC at North Carolina Reign FC at Orlando Houston at Utah Royals FC Washington at Portland

第3種郵便物認可 PAGE 25

New Sabres coach fine with being an unknown

By John Wawrow

Associated Press

Ralph Krueger doesn't care if you have never heard of him.

Having just turned 60, the Buffalo Sabres' new coach leans on the benefit of his vast experience — in hockey, soccer, and life as a father, husband, author and motivational speaker — to have stopped worrying a long time ago about how others view him and whether he might have something to prove returning to the NHL following a six-year absence.

"I don't care about that at all. Not one second, not even a millisecond do I care about my popularity here," Krueger emphatically told The Associated Press earlier this month.

"I have zero fear in this job because I have nothing to prove to anybody other than I want this team to be successful and give back to the city," he added. "But it's not that I'm out to prove to people that I was an out-of-the-box hire."

This offseason's NHL coaching carousel featured seven changes. While it had the Florida Panthers landing the most highly-prized candidate in three-time Stanley Cup champion Joel Quenneville, the Sabres took the most intriguing approach in hiring Krueger to turn things around.

The other changes have Dallas Eakins in Anaheim, Dave Tippett in Edmonton, Todd McLellan in Los Angeles, D.J. Smith in Ottawa and Alain Vigneault in I don't care about that at all. Not one second, not even a millisecond do I care ab



do I care about my popularity here. •

Ralph Krueger Buffalo Sabres coach

Philadelphia

In Buffalo, the Sabres essentially split the middle in choosing between hiring a so-called retread versus a first-timer by luring Krueger back to hockey after he spent the past five years running soccer's Southampton FC of the English Premier Learue.

From Winnipeg, Manitoba, Krueger is not exactly a fresh new face though he is highly respected for the quarter-century spent in hockey on both sides of the Atlantic.

He has coached Switzerland's national team, led Team Europe to a second-place finish at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey, and was as a consultant for Canada's goldmedal team at the 2014 Winter Games.

He's also not exactly a recycled entity either, despite having spent 2012-13 coaching the Edmonton Oilers before being fired — via Skype of all things — following a 19-22-7 finish.

If Quenneville benefits from having instant recognition when walking into a locker room, Krueger focused on making a good impression on a Sabres lineup featuring a majority of players who weren't in the NHL when he was in Edmonton.

"I think the thing that sticks out is the personality. He's somebody you want to be around, you want to be a better person around," captain Jack Eichel said. "He's very calculated, very smart. He knows what he wants."

He began by reaching out to players by phone or personally, such as visiting with captain Jack Eichel and forward Sam Reinhart in Slovakia, where they competed at the world championships in May.

Krueger then gripped his players' attention during a pre-camp-opening speech which forward Kyle Okposo said was so impassioned several of his teammates were ready to run through a wall afterward.

"He's got that presence about him," Okposo said "I've been around a lot of coaches, a lot of people, and I would say he's an alpha."

Krueger regarded Okposo's impression of him as a compliment and believed it referred to the open line of communication he's established with players.

Though Krueger prides himself for being always upbeat, that doesn't mean he'll avoid being critical.

"Tm not a smiley, friendly guy," he said.
"Positive isn't always friendly. Positive is constructive. Positive is working toward solutions. So if a player gets sent down, there's an opportunity for him, too. And we'll be clear on why and what has to be worked on."

Krueger spent his time away from hockey developing on-ice strategies, some of which he experimented with while coaching Team Europe.

He emphasizes simplicity in allowing players to play to their strengths, and speed in always being focused on attacking the opposing zone.

Though he has no regrets leaving hockey, the hiatus gave him time to realize how much he missed the game and dealing directly with players.

"My kids, when they saw me at the World Cup of Hockey said, 'Dad, that was the happiest period you've had in the last five years," he said.

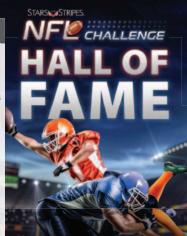
"They didn't mean I wasn't happy, but it was more in my job, the energy, and that stuck with me."

The joy to be back behind a bench is reflected in messages he sends to his family in Switzerland.

"The nicest thing I'm telling them is I really feel at home," Krueger said.

Top Scores for Week 4

77 LMvers4 **Pacific** gobrownies43 **Europe** 76 Review16 **United States** KINGKAPP 69 **Pacific** 68 820th Horseman **Middle East** 68 **Tnewell99** Europe 68 armvdude1212 **Pacific** 67 Number1PatsFan Middle East 66 Leemthedream Middle East dyoung429 **Europe**



Top 10 Overall Scores

gobrownies43 Europe hansenbh Middle East Review16 **United States** KINGKAPP **Pacific** gbpack 375 **Europe** 820th **Middle East** 373 Horseman 365 **Pacific** dwsmith76 365 **United States** ieanfontenot 362 **Europe** ewertt1 **361 Spicy Boy Europe**

Week 05 DEADLINE

12 Noon US Central Time, Every Thursday

Log in every week during the 2019 NFL Season and make your picks for the winners of the upcoming NFL games.

Earn points for every winning team you pick and at the end of the season, you may find yourself the winner.*

O'Reilly has 'another gear' after trophy-winning year

By Stephen Whyno Associated Press

yan O'Reilly stockpiled quite the hardware to show off at his Stanley Cup day.

On display next to the Cup he helped the St. Louis Blues win in June were the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP and the Selke Trophy as the NHL's best defensive forward. Any player would gladly celebrate with those shiny centerpieces, though O'Reilly — at 28 and on his third team — is only now showing he is this kind of elite player.

"I still think I have another gear to get to, and that's my plan," O'Reilly said. "There's still many things to improve on. There are areas to be better. One thing, too, is I think power-play production for myself could've been a lot better, and that's an area I need to grow There's some stuff I've been working on to try to improve that."

O'Reilly had nine points in the Cup Final against Boston playing through a cracked rib. He was nearly a point-a-game player during the regular season. Yet, somehow he still seemed underappreciated outside his peers.

"People didn't realize how good of a player Ryan O'Reilly was until this year," Vancouver forward Bo Horvat said. "All the players knew how good he was and how big of a part of that team he was and how special of a player - just his two-way game, his faceoffs. Obviously his point production this year was outstanding. His play in the playoffs, winning MVP and obviously the Stanley Cup, it was a great year for him and I think he opened up a lot of eyes."

O'Reilly said he figured something out during the playoffs: how to clear out some "garbage" in his brain to focus on what matters. The challenge now is trying to duplicate that during an 82-game regular season.

"Just go out there and completely be in the moment and go from there," O'Reilly said. "That's a big lesson for myself, trying to establish that more. Be clear and find a way to take all the noise and all the stuff that you don't need in your head and just throw it out. It just seems like when I did that, I tend to get more bounces and things went my way."

Winning the Selke was evidence enough of O'Reilly's strong regular season. He ranked eighth in the league in faceoffs, which is part of what makes him so tough to play against.

"He's just so competitive on draws," Chicago captain Jona-than Toews said. "I'm one of those guys I want to start every shift with the puck and if we're going up against a guy like that that could catch fire, and we might be chasing it down for a

whole period. He's obviously not one of the fastest guys out there, but he's so good positionally and just aware of where guys are and what to do with the puck. I think he's just an all-around super intelligent player."

Nathan MacKinnon

Already considered one of the fastest hockey players on earth, MacKinnon carried the Colorado Avalanche to within one victory of the Western Conference final and is the biggest reason they're a fashionable Cup contender this season. Fellow Cole Har-bour, Nova Scotia, native Sidney Crosby said MacKinnon is in the category of Pittsburgh teammate Evgeni Malkin and Edmonton star Connor McDavid as players who can take over games.

"We saw a pretty good glimpse of that in the playoffs," Crosby said. "He did it consistently. ... I'd expect him to take another big

Rookie Avalanche defenseman Cale Makar said it's electrifying to watch MacKinnon on the ice. And the 24-year-old center is an example to his younger teammates and those around the league.

"He's just a super committed guy," Makar said. "He loves hockev, and that's the way he plays. It shows on the ice. Just the way he handles his routine is very specific and you just learn from star players like that.'

Henrik Lundavist

"The King" is 37, yet could be the difference between the New York Rangers missing the playoffs for a third consecutive season or contending ahead of schedule. The longtime starting goaltender isn't fazed by young backup Alexandar Georgiev and top prospect Igor Shesterkin looming.

"My approach will not change," Lundqvist said. "I need to reach my top level no matter what, no matter who's next to me or where the team is at."
Lundqvist said the start of last

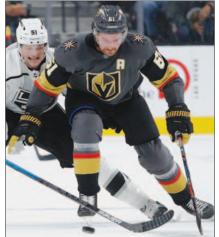
season was the best he had felt in a while. He posted a 2.68 goalsagainst average and .919 save percentage in his first 22 starts last season, which would be great for an improved Rangers team with a better blue line and more firepower up front.

"That's the level I just need to reach and sustain throughout the year, and then I know I can make a difference," Lundqvist said.

Alex Ovechkin

The release of "Ovi O's" cereal marked his 34th birthday. If anyone has shown age is just a number, it's Ovechkin, who is now the Washington Capitals' oldest player and still could score 50 goals. Ovechkin trained differently this summer, but don't expect him to alter his style too much.

"I'm still young, you know," Ovechkin said. "I still want to play my game. ... We're here for



The Golden Knights' Mark Stone skates ahead of the Kings' Austin Wagner in a preseason game. Stone had 12 points in Vegas' sevengame first-round series last year.



The Blues' Ryan O'Reilly stockpiled the hardware last year when he helped St. Louis win the Stanley Cup. He won the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP and the Selke Trophy as the NHL's best defensive forward. Despite that, "there's still many things to improve on. There are areas to be better," O'Reilly said.

25 minutes or whatever it is — I just want to be here to win, whatever it takes."

Ovechkin preceded O'Reilly as playoff MVP when he led the Capitals to the first title in franchise history in 2018. After a full summer off, he is refreshed to try to do it again

'He's obviously a different talent," Caps winger Carl Hagelin said. "A guy like that doesn't come around very often. He's one of those energetic guys even though he's 33, 34 years old. He comes to the rink with a smile every day. He does what he has to do.

Mark Stone

There may not be a more complete winger in the NHL than Stone, who put up 12 points in the Vegas Golden Knights' sevengame first-round series against San Jose. Stone is free of Ottawa's long-term rebuild and starting a \$76 million, eight-year contract with big expectations to help Vegas make another long playoff run.

"You get a No. 1 forward," Golden Knights forward Jonathan Marchessault said. "He's an unbelievable player. He does everything well on the ice. He puts up great numbers every year, and he's a successful player.

Vegas is one of several NHL teams without a captain. That might not last long with Stone in the fold

"He's not a guy that's trying to be a leader," Marchessault said. "He's just a born leader, so it's iust natural for him."

Rasmus Dahlin

The 2018 No. 1 pick had 44 points to lead all rookie defensemen. It was just the floor for where Dahlin wants to start.

"Of course I want to score more goals, have more assists and stuff like that." Dahlin said. "Last season, I had more points than I expected, but this year, I always want more. That's why I play."

The Buffalo Sabres are count-

ing on that in their first season under coach Ralph Krueger. Captain Jack Eichel has big expectations for Dahlin, who he believes "lived up to all the hype."

"You look at how good he was last year in year one and how much more he knows now." Eichel said. "I think he's primed to have a monster season '

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division Buffalo Montreal Boston Tampa Bay Ottawa

Detroit N.Y. Islande Washingtor New Jersey Pittsburgh Carolina N.Y. Rangers

Western Conference									
	Cen	tral	Divi	ision					
	GΡ	W	L		Pts	GF	GA		
Nashville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Winnipeg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Pac	ific	Divi	sion					
Calgary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Edmonton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Vegas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Vancouver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
San Jose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Anaheim	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō		
Arizona	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō		
Note: Two	po	ints	for	a win.	on	e po	oint		

Note: Iwo points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs. Wednesday's games Ottawa at Toronto Washington at St. Louis Vancouver at Edmonton

vancouver at Edmonton San Jose at Vegas San Jose at Vegas San Jose at Vegas Montreal Gow Work Buffalo at Pittsburgh Florida at Tamma Bay Minnesota at Nashville Calgary at Colorado Arizona at Anaheim Chicago Calgary at Colorado Arizona at Anaheim Florida at Tamba Bay Washington at A Web Vegas at San Jose Washington at New York Vegas at San Jose

Canadian teams looking to take next step

By Stephen Whyno Associated Press

uston Matthews watched the NBA champion Raptors parade through the streets of Toronto and couldn't help but wonder.

What if instead of Kawhi Leonard and the Mayle Leafs.

Kyle Lowry, it was him and his Maple Leafs teammates celebrating the franchise's first Stanley Cup title since 1967?

"I definitely get stuck thinking about stuff like that," Matthews said. "You kind of picture yourself in that situation." Matthews first wants to picture the

Matthews irrst wants to picture the Maple Leafs on a long playoff run after three consecutive first-round exits. For Toronto and all seven Canada-based NHL teams, this season is about taking the next step, whether it's into Cup contender status, into the postseason or a long-term rebuild.

The Maple Leafs — with Matthews, Mitch Marner, John Tavares and William Nylander up front and a retooled blue line featuring former Avalanche defenseman Tyson Barrie — on paper look like the best hope to end Canada's Cup drought that dates to 1993 (Montreal Canadiens). But they play in arguably hockey's toughest division with the Tampa Bay Lightning, Boston Bruins and the improved Florida Panthers, so they can't really be judged until they get into the playoffs and show what they can do.

"Obviously the Achilles heel has been that first round for us," Matthews said. It's tough to really measure a successful season without reaching that ultimate goal and accomplishing it. For us obviously it's been frustrating, especially the last two years — the same team, same result. So for us just making sure that everybody's really focused and dialed in and ready to kind of get over that hump."

Toronto lost to Boston in Game 7 of the first round each of the past two seasons.



CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto Maple Leafs center Auston Matthews would like to bring the first Stanley Cup title to Toronto since 1967. No Canadian team has won the Cup since 1993.

The Bruins got to Game 7 of the Cup Final before losing to St. Louis.

"They were that close," Matthews said.
"It's always in the back of your mind kind of that 'What could have been."

Western powers

Out West, the Winnipeg Jets and Calgary Flames are each coming off disappointing first-round defeats and have high expectations of burying those memories and advancing further this spring.

"We never really found that level that we did two years ago when we made it to the conference finals, and we need to get back at that," Jets winger Nikolaj Ehlers said. "We need to find that and we need to find it earlier. I'm excited for this year and I think the guys are, too."

The Jets traded defenseman Jacob Trou-

ba to the Rangers, lost Tyler Myers in free agency and are dealing with the possibility that Dustin Byfuglien could retire. The uncertain futures of unsigned restricted free agent forwards Patrik Laine and Kyle Connor add to the uncertainty in Winnipeg.

"If we don't have those two guys for the whole season, which I don't think is going to happen, then it does change our team a little bit because then we've lost a lot of players." Ehlers said.

Montreal's hump

The Montreal Canadiens just want to get back to the playoffs after missing them two of the past three seasons. They haven't won a series since 2015, and forward Max Domi can't imagine what his first home playoff game will be like in a city starved for it.

"I watch videos all the time of people

with their iPhones at a live Bell Centre Montreal Canadiens game in the playoffs and just visualizing how cool that would be," Domi said. "It's a dream of mine."

Carey Price, who in 2015 won the Hart Trophy as NHL MVP and Vezina Trophy as the top goaltender, is the biggest reason to believe the Canadiens can overcome the odds and make the playoffs

"He's the best goalie in the world for a reason," Domi said. "It's a major confidence boost, for sure. He's outstanding."

Oil shortage

The Edmonton Oilers have one playoff appearance since reaching the 2006 Stanley Cup Final. They have a new general manager in Ken Holland, a new coach in Dawe Tippett and new questions about captain Connor McDavid coming off a knee injury. The biggest question, though, is if this once-proud franchise can put it together and stop wasting McDavid's prime.

"We all get frustrated at times," center

"We all get trustrated at times," center Kyan Nugent-Hopkins said. "You're kidding yourself if you say it doesn't. We've got to find our way out of it. There's no point dwelling on it, no point getting down about it. You've just got to push through and we've got to find a way to get out of it together."

Maybe next year

Swedish sensation Elias Pettersson gives the Vancouver Canucks hope that they can return to prominence with a new wave of young talent. It's still a process for Vancouver, which will need to build up more talent before contending. Defenseman Thomas Chabot's Séd million, eight-year extension is similarly good news for the Ottawa Senators that a rising star wants to stay there and be part of the solution. The Senators need a handful more players like Chabot before they can reach the playoffs again.

Adversity: Blues showed title hopefuls that early losses don't spell end

FROM FRONT PAGE

Players who watched all four division champions bow out in the first round and the Blues grind to the first title in franchise history came away with some important lessons on how to approach the regular season. St. Louis showed a midseason coaching change can work, a goalie can come out of nowhere and have success, and momentum can snowball in a positive direction.

"It was good understanding that it's a roller coaster, and the more you can stay even keel and keep staying with things and keep pushing each other to think that sometimes things will change, you'll get a bounce and things will start to go your way," said Blues center Ryan O'Reilly, the playoff MVP. "It was very awful at the start. We couldn't seem to string wins together. But guys kept working. Guys didn't shut down. They kept working for each other and the next thing you know, things started to change. Once that belief happened, it kind of steamrolled."

Tampa Bay wound up on the flip side, having not lost more than two games in a row all season and lacking the struggles to draw from when things went poorly in the playoffs. They went four and out against the Columbus Blue Jackets.

"We were good in the regular season and probably thought we'll be all right in the playoffs because we were good in the regular season," said the Lightning's Andrei Vasilevskiy, voted the Vezina Trophy winner as the league's best goaltender last It was very awful at the start. We couldn't seem to string wins together. But guys kept working. Guys didn't shut down. They kept working for each other and the next thing you know, things started to change. Once that belief happened, it kind of steamrolled.?

Ryan O'Reilly Blues center, playoff MVP

season. "The regular season was great. We were on a good run. In the playoffs, I think our tank was empty because of that and we just went straight down because of that."

The Lightning tied the NHL record with 62 victories and finished 21 points ahead of the next closest team. They also became the 10th Presidents' Trophy winners in 11 tries to fall short of winning the Stanley Cup.

All of which supports the believe that standings and seeding matters little in the playoffs, where matchups take precedence. It also apparently doesn't matter where a team is at by Thanksgiving or New Year's Day, which used to be important markers about who will make the postseason.

"We started well and we ended bad," as ald-game winning streak, were first in the league at Thanksgiving and missed the playoffs. "Vou look at St. Louis and they did the complete opposite. It's a long season, and a lot goes into it. Consistency is one of the most important things in this league."

Is it, though? The Blues didn't put together a winning streak longer than two until mid-January. They got a boost from rookie goalie Jordan Binnington, tied a franchise record with 11 consecutive victories and became the poster boys for coming together at the right time.

"It's just something to rally behind,"
Dallas Stars goaltender Ben Bishop said.
"Usually that's kind of what it comes down
to. Something happens, and usually a team
wallies helpind is".

For Vegas in 2017-18, it was the hometown shooting that killed \$S\$ people and bonded an expansion hockey team with its community. The Golden Knights shocked the league by winning eight of their first nine games of existence and reached the Stanley Cup Final before losing to the Washington Capitals. For St. Louis, Laura Branigan's "Gloria" became a popular rallying cry and young fan Laila Anderson battling a rare auto-immune disease was a heartwarming touchstone for the players as they made their run under Craig Berube, who was an interim coach until the celebrations had begun.

Rallying points are impossible to predict, and there's no way to control when and how a group comes together. Still, general managers, coaches and players are always searching for that recipe of how to peak at the right time.

"You want to keep climbing," said goaltender Tuukka Rask, whose Boston Bruins pushed St. Louis to Game 7 of the Cup Final. "I don't think you want to peak early and then slowly decline from there. That's what everybody's looking for. But you're just trying to make the playoffs, always. You're just trying to make the playoffs on a good note and not feeling like, 'Oh, we dodged a bullet here. We barely made it.' And then you're kind of starting the playoffs not knowing what your game's going to look like. You want to be feeling great as a team entering the playoffs."

Toews pointed out a hot start never hurts. Points banked in October, November and December count just the same.

The Blues' title run is perfect evidence that games lost early don't spell the end. That's how Jaccob Slavin sees the regular season now that he and the Carolina Hurricanes are trying to back up a surprise trip to the Eastern Conference final and every other team is looking to find the Blues' rhythm and win it all.

"Until you're out of it, don't give up," Slavin said. "If you get on a roll at the right time, anything can happen."

TRACK/COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SOCCER

Coach Salazar gets 4-year doping ban

By EDDIE PELLS Associated Press

Renowned track coach Alberto Salazar, who trained four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah, along with a gold medalist and top contenders at this week's world championships, has been kicked out of the competition after being handed a fouryear ban in a case long pursued by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

USADA said in a news release early Tuesday that an arbitration panel decided on the four-year penalty for Salazar and endocrinologist Jeffrey Brown for, among other violations, possessing and trafficking testosterone while training top runners at the Nike Oregon Project (NOP). Brown did consulting work for

the NOP and was a personal physician for some of the runners.

Among the seven runners listed as members of Salazar's team are Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands, who won the 10,000-meter gold medal on Saturday night, and is entered to run later this week in the 1,500; and Donavan Brazier and Clayton Murphy of the U.S., each of whom are scheduled to run in the 800-meter final

The USADA ban went into ef-fect Monday, and track's gov-erning body, the IAAF, moved quickly to revoke Salazar's cre-dential for the final six days in Doha. The Athletics Integrity Unit, which oversees anti-doping in track, was preparing to notify the Salazar athletes that they could not associate with their coach because of his ban.

In a statement released by NOP.

Salazar said he was shocked by the arbitration outcome, and that he would appeal. He said throughout a six-year investigation, he and his athletes "endured unjust, unethical and highly damaging treatment from the USADA.

"The Oregon Project has never and will never permit doping,' Salazar said.

Hassan said she was aware of the USADA investigation when she joined Salazar's team "and have always had a clean conscience, knowing we are being monitored to the absolute fullest by USADA and" the World Anti-Doping Agency. "I am saddened by the timing of

USADA as it brings my champi-onship out of balance," she said. The existence of the long-run-

ning USADA investigation became public after a 2015 report by BBC and ProPublica that detailed some of Salazar's practices, which included use of testosterone gel and infusions of a supplement called L-carnitine that, when mixed with insulin, can greatly enhance athletic performance.

Distance runner Kara Goucher and a former NOP coach, Steve Magness, were among the wit-nesses who provided evidence for the case. USADA said it received information from 30 witnesses. Goucher left NOP in 2011, and in the ProPublica piece, she called Salazar a "sort of a win-at-all-costs person and it's hurting the

Farah, who runs for Britain, worked with the Nike Oregon Project while he was racking up six world and four Olympic championships. During that period, UK Athletics did its own investigation



Track coach Alberto Salazar, who trained four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah and a number of other top runners, has been given a four-year ban by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. USADA said in a news release Monday that Salazar and Jeffrey Brown were in a news release without what salaza and series brown were receiving four-year bans for, among other violations, possessing and trafficking testosterone while working at the Nike Oregon Project (NOP), where they trained top runners.

into Salazar and gave Farah the OK to continue working with him. Farah parted ways with Salazar in 2017, saying he wanted to move back home.

On Tuesday, Farah released a statement saving he has "no tolerance for anyone who breaks the rules or crosses a line.'

Salazar also coached 2012 Olympic silver medalist Galen Rupp of the U.S., who in the past has strongly denied any wrongdoing.

USADA said it relied on more

than 2,000 exhibits between the two cases and that proceedings included nearly 5.800 pages of transcripts.

"The athletes in these cases found the courage to speak out and ultimately exposed the truth," USADA CEO Travis Tygart said. While acting in connection with the Nike Oregon Project, Mr. Salazar and Dr. Brown demonstrated that winning was more important than the health and wellbeing of the athletes they were sworn to

Gators get healthy for big game

By MARK LONG Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — No. 10 Florida will be close to full strength, especially on defense, for its biggest game of the

Coach Dan Mullen said Monday that six injured players — including speedy cornerback CJ Henderson and disruptive defensive end Jabari Zuniga - will be back against seventh-ranked Auburn in the Swamp.

It's a top-10 matchup involving two of the Southeastern Conference's five undefeated teams, and the Gators will have two of their top players back on the field for

Henderson missed the last three games after spraining his left ankle against Tennessee-Martin in early September. Zuniga tweaked his left ankle the following week at Kentucky and missed two games.

Henderson, a junior from Miami, has six interceptions in 27 games. Zuniga, a senior from Marietta, Georgia, has 181/2 sacks in 39 games.

"The guys that are veteran players, I don't worry about as much," Mullen said. "The key is just getting them back in the flow at practice and getting them the practice reps they need.'

Safety Shawn Davis, linebacker Ventrell Miller, receiver Freddie Swain and safety Jeawon Taylor - each of them has started at least one game this season - also will return after missing last week's game against lower-division Towson.

"I'm not going to say every-body is 100% coming back into it, but they are going to be ready to play," Mullen said. "Us getting them prepared throughout the week to get ready to be as close to 100% as possible on Saturday is the most important thing. That's the concern of getting them to go, but I'm happy to have guys coming back.'

Florida will be without elusive receiver Kadarius Toney for a fourth consecutive game. Toney injured his left shoulder against UT Martin, and Mullen said he won't be back until after the team's bye week. That means he will miss games against Auburn, fifth-ranked LSU and South Carolina. He's expected to return against No. 3 Georgia on Nov. 2.

Toney is one of Florida's top playmakers. The offense also is without starting quarterback Feleipe Franks.

But the team is otherwise as

healthy as it's been since the season opener, and the defense is expected to be intact for the first time all year.

"I'm really looking forward to having all my brothers on the field with me," cornerback Marco Wilson said. "Now we can run as one, with nobody out, we're deep with depth. That's great."

US Soccer opposes class status for women

By Anne M. Peterson Associated Press

The U.S. Soccer Federation has filed a motion opposing the U.S. women's national team's request to certify the players' lawsuit seeking equitable pay as a class action.

The women filed their motion for class certification on Sept. 11, asking the court to include in the lawsuit all players called up to the national team, in addition to those originally named, U.S. Soccer filed its response to the request on Monday night.

Twenty-eight players, including Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe, sued U.S. Soccer in March alleging institutionalized gender discrimination that includes inequitable compensation compared to players on the men's national team.

U.S. Soccer maintains that compensation for each team is the result of separate collective bargaining agreements, and that the pay structures are different as a result. Men's team players are paid largely by appearance and performance, while the contract for the women's team includes provisions for health care and other benefits, as well as salaries in the National Women's Soccer League.

The federation argued in its motion Monday that four players for the U.S. team — Mor-

USSF tries to spin the undeniable fact that if the men players won their games, they would be paid considerably more than the women are now. 7

players spokeswoman

gan, Rapinoe, Carli Llovd and Becky Sauerbrunn -– were each paid more than the highest paid player on the men's national team in four years over the period between 2014-2019. four earned more even when NWSL salaries were not included, the motion said.

U.S. Soccer maintains that because Molly Levinson those players made more, they lack the standing to represent a class.

based on performance, not gender. USSF tries to spin the undeniable fact that if the men players won their games, they would be paid considerably more than the women are now, said Molly Levinson, a spokeswoman for the players concerning the lawsuit. "This is a tired argument from USSF that women players must work twice as hard and win every

time men lose in order to be paid and have the same working conditions as the men. "It runs counter to every American prin-

ciple of equality, won't stop this case from going forward, and doesn't stand a chance in

The motion says the four players made more in 2015 and then from 2017-2019 more than the highest-paid men's player in each of

The men's team did not make the field for the 2018 World Cup in Russia and had fewer matches and therefore fewer call-ups and training camps from 2017-18. The team has also transitioned to new coach Gregg Berhalter, who was hired last December.

The women's team won this year's World Cup in France and had additional games leading up to the event, including qualification matches. The women also won the World Cun in 2015. The team also played in victory tour matches following those World Cup titles.

The lawsuit accused the federation of paying players on the women's team less than similarly situated male national team players on a per game basis.

Following a failed attempt to mediate the matter, a May 5 trial date was set in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

MLB PLAYOFFS

Which teams can turn to reliable relief?

Bullpens certain to make an impact in October

By JAKE SEINER Associated Press

s's been three years since Andrew Miller led the Cleveland Indians to the brink of a World Series championship by coming out of the bullpen early and often, and bulk work from relievers has been an October staple since. Whether it's Brewers All-Star Josh Hader stretching out for three innings or Astros ace Justin Verlander moonlighting in middle relief, aggressive bullpen management has become standard postseason practice.

As the calendar flips, a look at the best relief options — for the biggest outs, and for a bunch of them - for each of the 10 playoff

New York Yankees

For The Big Out: In baseball's deepest bullpen, the difference maker is Aroldis Chapman. The 31-year-old left-hander has lost some steam - he averaged about 98 mph on his fastball this year, down from 101 at his peak in 2016 but he's made up for it with an improved slider that he's throwing more than ever. Although he famously blew a lead for the Cubs in Game 7 of the 2016 World Series. Chapman has been fantastic in October, posting a 2.30 ERA with seven saves in 27 appearances.

Man In The Middle: CC Sa-

bathia impressed last week in the first regular season relief appearance of his career, and he and J.A. Happ will both be in the bullpen. The left-handed starters could be used in tandem with right-hander Luis Severino, or after a righty opener like Chad Green.

Minnesota Twins

For The Big Out: Taylor Rogers built on a breakout 2018 and emerged as one of baseball's steadiest closers this year. The 28-year-old is perhaps the most reliable strike thrower in the American League.

Man In The Middle: Two years after he went undrafted, rookie right-hander Randy Dobnak has pitched himself into a key postseason role. The 24-year-old certainly didn't expect to be here - he scheduled his wedding for Sept. 28, figuring he'd be free when the minor league season ended.

Houston Astros

For The Big Out: Roberto Osuna is Houston's closer, but Rvan Pressly is the guy manager AJ Hinch will call in the most critical spots. The right-hander has dominated since being acquired from Minnesota last season thanks to a curveball with the highest average spin rate in the majors. The 30-year-old had knee surgery in August but returned Sept. 20 and has looked sharp.

Man In The Middle: With Justin Verlander, Gerrit Cole and Zack Greinke, Houston shouldn't need much length from its relievers. Wade Miley got accustomed to unusual October usage last vear with Milwaukee, and he or rookie Jose Urquidy will likely go to the bullpen. Don't count out a relief look from Verlander, either.

Tampa Rays

For The Big Out: Even with one of baseball's best and most versatile pitching staffs, the Rays went shopping at the deadline to get right-hander Nick Anderson from the Marlins. The 29-yearold rookie has struck out 41 and walked two in 211/3 innings since the deal.

Man In The Middle: Ryan Yarbrough has thrived following Tampa Bay's openers the past two seasons, although he's been used effectively as a standard starter down the stretch and might be Tampa Bay's No. 4 man instead. Yonny Chirinos and Trevor Richards both have long relief experience, too. With Charlie Morton, Blake Snell, Tyler Glasnow and Yarbrough all healthy, manager Kevin Cash might use his pitchers in surprisingly traditional roles.

Oakland Athletics

For The Big Out: Australian righty Liam Hendriks completed a remarkable turnaround after being cut last year by locking himself into Oakland's closer role this season. He credits the comeback to tarot cards and an energy healer named Rubi - "she's phenomenal" Hendriks told The Associated Press - but it also helps that he's throwing his fastball harder than ever.

Man In The Middle: Just like David Price with Tampa Bay in 2008, rookie left-hander Jesus Luzardo could have an outsized impact for Oakland despite limited big league experience. Ranked among baseball's top starting pitching prospects, Luzardo has a 1.50 ERA in six relief appearances as a September call-up.

Atlanta Braves

For The Big Out: After a few uneven seasons in San Francisco. Mark Melancon has returned to All-Star form in Atlanta. He's improved his control and begun throwing harder since being acquired from the Giants at the trade deadline, supplanting struggling Luke Jackson in the closer's role

Man In The Middle: Max Fried made 30 starts during the regular season but likely won't crack the postseason rotation. The lefthander is an enticing piggyback option after right-handed starter Mike Foltynewicz.

St. Louis Cardinals

For The Big Out: Last year's deal sending slugger Luke Voit to the Yankees looked like a steal for New York, but Giovanny Gallegos has evened things out by becoming a bullpen anchor. The rookie right-hander has been excellent in middle relief, walking hardly anyone and holding opponents to a .168 average. His emergence has also lessened the loss of injured closer Jordan Hicks.

Man In The Middle: Andrew Miller was once the poster boy for October relief pitching, but the 34-year-old left-hander hasn't been nearly the same pitcher in his first season with St. Louis. Manager Mike Shildt leans traditional, and extraneous starter Michael Wacha is probably the club's best bet for multiple innings.

Los Angeles Dodgers

For The Big Out: Kenley Jansen has a 2.08 ERA over the past six postseasons, but a seasonlong slump has made the 31-yearold a potential weak link for the two-time defending NL champs. Despite winning 106 games, Los Angeles lacks a reliable, shutdown reliever, and converted starters like Kenta Maeda or Julio Urias could be asked for key outs in short bursts.



BEN MARGOT/AF

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Kenley Jansen has a 2.08 ERA in the past six postseasons, but a season-long slump has made the 31-year-old a potential weak link.

Man In The Middle: Los Angeles has options for length, and it will likely need someone to follow 39-year-old Rich Hill in a notential Game 4 Rookie righties Dustin May and Tony Gonsolin appear to be battling for the final bullpen spot. Either would slot well behind the left-handed Hill.

Washington Nationals

For The Big Out: Washington hoped to lean on two-time All-Star Sean Doolittle, but he's been responsible for six of the Nats' NL-leading 29 blown saves. The club's best chance in the late innings may be complete games from Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin.

Man In The Middle: If the starters aren't working deep, the Nationals are probably in trouble. Expect Scherzer to be a bullpen option late in the series should Washington advance past the wild-card round.

Milwaukee Brewers

For The Big Out: Josh Hader was the most-feared pitcher in last year's postseason, with every managerial decision factoring if and when he might pitch. The left-hander is practically automatic for 6 to 9 outs, although he blew a critical save Saturday at Colorado and allowed a careerhigh 15 home runs this season.

Man In The Middle: Only two pitchers topped 130 innings for Milwaukee this year — Zach Davies and Chase Anderson — and both may be left off the playoff roster. Nearly everybody is going to be asked to cover multiple innings. Veteran left-hander Gio Gonzalez in particular has taken well to recent long relief work.

Scoreboard

Playoffs glance

**if necessary
**WILD CARD
Tuesday: Milwaukee (Woodruff 11-3)
at Washington (Scherzer 11-7)
**Wednesday: Tampa Bay (Morton 16-6)
at Oakland (TBD)
at Oakland (TBD)
**Oakland (

Saturday: at Houston Monday, Oct. 7: at Oakland-Tampa

x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: at Oakland-Tampa

x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: at Oakland-Tampa Bay winner x-Turrsday, Oct. 10: at Houston Friday: at N.Y. Yankees Saturday: at N.Y. Yankees Monday, Oct. 7: at Minnesotta x-Thursday, Oct. 10: at N.Y. Yankees National League Washington-Mincukee winner Thursday; at L.A. Dodgers Friday: at L.A. Dodgers Friday: at L.A. Dodgers Washington-Mincukee winner Thursday: at L.A. Dodgers Friday: at L.A. Dodgers Washington-Mincukee winner Thursday: at C.A. Dodgers Friday: at L.A. Dodgers

Sunday, Oct. 6: at Washington-Mil-waukee winner x-Monday, Oct. 7: at Washington-Mil-waukee winner x-Wednesday, Oct. 9: at L.A. Dodgers Atlanta vs. 5t. Louis Thursday: at Atlanta Friday: at Atlanta Sunday, Oct. 6: at St. Louis x-Worday, Oct. 6: at St. Louis

-Wednesday, Oct. 9: at Atlanta LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

(Best-of-7) American League

(Best-of-7)

Marcian League
Sunday, Oct. 13

Uneday, Oct. 15

Wether Marcian Sunday, Oct. 15

Wether Marcian Sunday, Oct. 16

Wether Marcian Sunday, Oct. 19

**Saturday, Oct. 14

**Saturday, Oct. 15

**Saturday, Oct. 25

Brewers closer Josh Hader was the most-feared pitcher in last year's postseason but allowed a career-high 15 home runs this season.

Browns coach wants more consistent calls in wake of OBJ choke

By Tom Withers
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Cleveland Browns coach Freddie Kitchens has Odell Beckham's back. He's more worried about the NFL protecting the star's neck

Kitchens said Monday that he wishes the league's officials wern more consistent calling penalties in the aftermath of Beckham being choked by Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey during Cleveland's 40-25 victory on Sunday.

Beckham got into a heated fight with Humphrey, who pinned the three-time Pro Bowler to the ground and appeared to have his hands around his throat before being pulled away.

Both players were assessed personal fouls, but neither was ejected. Kitchens felt Humphrey should have been thrown out, but Shawn Hochuli said the actions didn't rise to the level of a "disqualifying foul."

"Here's my big deal with that: I just want to have consistency on how we're going to deal with things, OK?" Kitchens said during a conference call. "I don't like seeing our player on the field and someone's hands around his throat. I don't like that. I don't think that needs to be in our game and I would be the first to say that if it was our guy doing it.

"And I want everybody held to the same standard. That's all I want"

Following the game, Kitchens indicated he was going to call head of officiating Al Riveron before the Browns flew home from Baltimore. He changed his mind.

"It's against the rules to call before 9 a.m. I want to make it very clear that I did not call last night," Kitchens said. "But we're still in the process of talking through some things with that."

He didn't say if he had spoken with Riveron.

Beckham, who has a history of scrapping with defenders, was blocking Humphrey when things got out of control. Humphrey overpowered Beckham and had him in a vulnerable position be-



NICK WASS/AF

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham, left, got into a skirmish with Baltimore Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey, right, who pinned the threetime Pro Bowler and had his hands around his neck before being pulled away Sunday. Both players were assessed personal fouls, but neither was ejected.

fore others intervened.

Browns center JC Tretter ran to help Beckham and was also penalized on the play.

"I wouldn't change anything I did," Tretter said. "Seeing a teammate pinned down like that, I'm not just going to stand there and let that go on." Kitchens said Hochuli ex-

plained the decision not to eject Humphrey and he credited the officials with not letting things escalate. Ravens coach John Harbaugh

wasn't nearly as opinionated on the matter as Kitchens.

'I don't know about an ejection," Harbaugh said. "I just try to focus on what I'm going to say to our player, because you can't control the way the officials see it. I'm not exactly sure why (Humphrey) got the foul, but I'm sure they'll tell us what they thought they saw. Based on the close up that we have of the footage that we had, (Humphrey) pinned him on the ground after about three or four things happened. And I don't want to alleviate him from any responsibility, because we can't get flags in that situation.'



Peren Ionerer /A

Oakland Raiders linebacker Vontaze Burfict has been suspended by the NFL for the rest of the season for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Indianapolis Colts tight end Jack Doyle on Sunday.

Burfict banned for rest of season

By Josh Dubow Associated Press

Oakland Raiders linebacker Vontaze Burfict was suspended Monday for the rest of the season for a helmet-to-hemet hit on Indianapolis Colts tight end Jack Doyle, the most severe punishment in NFL history for an on-field infraction. Burfict will miss the final 12 games of the sea-

son and any playoff games for "repeated violations of unnecessary roughness rules." He has been suspended three times in his career for hits violating the league's player safety rules.

Burfict has the right under the collective bargaining agreement to appeal the punishment in the next three days. He had one of his previous suspensions reduced from five games to three games on an appeal in 2017.

It's that history that led to the most severe punishment the NFL has handed out when it comes to player safety, topping the five games Tennessee's Albert Haynesworth got in 2006 for kicking and stomping on Cowboys center Andre Gurode's face, leading to 30 stitches.

Burfict had served two three-game suspensions already in his career and had been warned about severe punishment for future infractions.

"There were no mitigating circumstances on this play," NFL Vice President of football operations Jon Runyan said in a letter to Burfict announcing the suspension. "Your contact was unnecessary, flagrant and should have been avoided. For your actions, you were penalized and disqualified from the

"Following each of your previous rule violations, you were warned by me and each of the jointly-ap-

pointed appeal officers that future violations would result in escalated accountability measures. However, you have continued to flagrantly abuse rules designated to protect yourself and your opponents from unnecessary risk."

"Your extensive history of rules violations is factored into this decision regarding accountability measures."

The suspension is without pay, costing Burfict more than \$1.1 million in salary and per game active roster bonuses.

Burfict was flagged for unnecessary roughness and ejected from the Raiders' game against the Colts on Sunday after a blow to Doyle's head early in the second quarter.

"I just got tackled," Doyle said after the game.
"I'm sure it looked worse than it was. I didn't really feel anything from it. My helmet protected me."

The Colts have now had two players enter the concussion protocol following games this season — All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard two weeks ago and starting safety Clayton Geathers following Sunday's game. Doyle, Colts coach Frank Reich said Monday, showed no symptoms of a head injury.

Reich backed the league's decision.

"I was just thankful the league took the action that it did, and (I) support the league and the decision," he said on a conference call Monday. "I did have a reaction yesterday. When someone does something like that and attacks one of your players—that's just not supposed to be in the game. Then when it's against one of your players, you naturally have a reaction. I'm just glad they did what they did at the game and the follow-up action seems very appropriate."



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/A

The loss of Bradley Chubb is another blow for a team still looking for its first win.

Broncos LB Chubb out for season with torn ACL

By Arnie Stapleton Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The winless Denver Broncos suffered the worst loss of their anguished season Monday when rising star Bradley Chubb was diagnosed with a torn left ACL will require surgery and end his season.

The fifth overall pick in the 2018 draft, Chubb was injured in the Broncos' 26-24 loss to Jacksonville on Sunday although he finished the game and forced a

fumble on the last series. The ball bounced right back to quarterback Gardner Minshew, who then drove the Jags for the game-winning field goal as time expired two weeks after the Bears had a walk-off field goal in Denver.

"He felt good enough to come back in and actually he played that last series pretty damn well, had some really good pass rushes, caused that fumble that we weren't able to get," Broncos coach Vic Fangio said. "So, he was as surprised, I think, as anybody this morning when he woke up feeling the way he did."

In the postgame locker room, Chubb blamed cramps for his being on and off the field in the fourth quarter, although he was seen limping around the sideline and going into the medical tent.

"Just cramps," Chubb said.
"Feeling good now but need to shake that off, hydrate more and can't let my team down not being

Although Miller reached 100 career sacks Sunday, it's been

Chubb who's been rushing the passer more with Miller having more coverage and contain-theedge responsibilities in Fangio's defense. Chubb had one of Denver's five sacks Sunday after the Broncos became the first NFL team to go the first three games without a sack or a takeaway.

"It's a huge loss," Fangio said.
"He's one of our better players, obviously. He's a tempo setter, great player, great person, great leader, all that. So, it is a loss."

NFI

Scoreboard

American Conference

East										
	w	L	т	Pct	PF	PΔ				
New England	4	ō	ō	1.000	122	27				
Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	76	63				
N.Y. Jets	0	3	0	.000	33	70				
Miami	0	4	0	.000	26	163				
	9	out	th							
Houston	2	2	0	.500	78	78				
Indianapolis	2	2	ō	.500	94	102				
Jacksonville	2	2	ō	.500	84	84				
Tennessee	2	2	0	.500	91	62				
	_,	lor	th							
Cleveland	2	2	0	.500	89	91				
Baltimore	2	2	ō	.500	135	100				
Pittsburgh	ĩ	3	ŏ	.250	76	88				
Cincinnati	ō	4	ō	.000	57	110				
	٠,	Wes								
Kansas City	4	0	0	1.000	135	94				
Oakland	2	2	ŏ	.500	79	102				
L.A. Chargers	2	2	ŏ	.500	90	74				
Denver	ő	4	ñ	.000	70	93				
Deliver	U	-	U	.000	70	93				

National Conference

		Eas	t			
	W	L	т	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	107	56
Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	110	105
N.Y. Giants	2	2	ō	.500	87	97
Washington	0	4	0	.000	66	118
	٠,	ou	th			
New Orleans	3	1	0	.750	84	92
Tampa Bay	2	2	ŏ	.500	123	117
Carolina	5	2		.500	95	80
Atlanta	ĩ	3	ŏ	.250	70	99
Acidined	٠,	lor		1250		
Green Bay	з°	1	0	.750	85	69
Chicago	3	1	ŏ	.750	66	45
Detroit	2	1	1			
				.625	97	95
Minnesota		2	0	.500	84	63
		We:				
San Francisco	3	0	0	1.000	96	54
Seattle	3	1	0	.750	103	89
L.A. Rams	3	1	0	.750	117	104
Arizona	0	3	1	.125	74	115
Th	ursc	lay	's g	ame		

Thursday's game
Philadelphia 34, Green Bay 27,
LA, Charys Sunday's games
Cervital Sunday Sunday Sunday
LA, Charys Sunday Sunday Sunday
LA, Charys Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday
LA, Charys Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday
LA, Charys Sunday Sunday

open: San Francisco, N.Y.
Monday's game
Pittsburgh 27, Cincinnati 3
Thursday, Oct. 3
L.A. Rams at Seattle
Sunday, Oct. 6
Atlanta at Houston

Minnesota at N.Y. Giants Baltimore at Pittsburgh Jacksonville at Carolina Buffalo at Tennessee Chicago vs Oakland in London Tampa Bay at New Orleans New England at Washington Arizona at Cincinnati N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia Denver at L.A. Chargers Green Bay at Dallas Indianapolis at Kansas City Open: Detroit, Milami Monday, Det. 7 Cleveland at San Francisco Buffalo at Tennessee

Monday Steelers 27, Bengals 3 3 0 0 0-3 0 10 14 3-27

First Quarter Cin—FG Bullock 28, 8:22. Second Quarter

Second Quarter
Pit—Conner 21 pass from Rudolph
(Boswell kick), 10:32.
Pit—FG Boswell 29, :58.
Third Quarter
Pit—Samuels 2 run (Boswell kick),

Pit—Samuers 2 100 Control 10:36.
Pit—DJohnson 43 pass from Rudolph (Boswell kick), 9:24.
Fourth Quarter
Pit—FG Boswell 49, 5:51.

First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing 102 Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns 0-0 21-37-1 8-69 5-41.0 Interceptions Ret. 27-31-0 0-0 2-49.5 Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost | Sacker-rain |

RUSHING-Cincinnati, Mixon 15-62, Dalton 3-8, Bernard 1-3, Pittsburgh, Coner 10-42, Samuels 10-26, Snell 2-1, Rudolph 3-(minus 3), PASSING-Cincinnati, Dalton 21-37-1-171. Pittsburgh, Rudolph 24-28-0-229, Samuels 3-3-0-31.

Samuels 3-3-0-31.

RECEIVING—Cincinnati, Tate 4-50, Bernard 4-16, Mixon 4-1, Ross 3-36, Boyd 3-33, Elfort 2-27, Willis 1-8. Pittsburgh, Conner 8-83, Samuels 8-57, DJohnson 6-77, Smith-Schuster 3-15, Vannett 2-28.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jaylen Samuels celebrates his 2-yard touchdown run during the second half against the Cincinnati Bengals on Monday night in Pittsburgh. The Steelers decided to try some direct snaps to Samuels in an effort to spark their struggling offense.

Steelers find spark, rout Bengals

By WILL GRAVES Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers insisted they might have been winless through three weeks, but they were far from hopeless. They stressed the process of finding an identity with franchise quarterback Ben Roethlisberger out for the season with an elbow injury would take time and a collective effort.

An effort that looked an awful lot like what they put together during a 27-3 pounding of the Cincinnati Bengals on Monday night.

Mason Rudolph threw for 229 yards and two scores. Running back, part-time wide receiver and occasional wildcat quarterback Jaylen Samuels accounted for 134 yards of total offense and a 2-vard touchdown run. James Conner emerged from an early funk to run for 42 yards and catch eight passes for 83 yards and a score. The defense sacked Andy Dalton eight times and held the Bengals scoreless over the final 51 minutes.

It wasn't perfect, but it was a start. One that helped the Steelers (1-3) avoid their second 0-4 start in 51 years and reaffirmed their belief that they can find a way forward without Roethlisberger.

"It's huge," Samuels said. "Coming in 0-3 and coming back, getting a divisional game, that's huge. We've just got to build off this

With Pittsburgh's running game going nowhere through three weeks, running backs coach Eddie Faulkner suggested to offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner that it might be time to dust off the wildcat. Samuels ran it



Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton, top, is sacked by Pittsburgh's Devin Bush, left, and T.J. Watt. The Steelers sacked Dalton eight times in their 27-3 victory.

frequently during his college career at N.C. State, and the Bengals (0-4) certainly looked caught off guard when Samuels lined up in the shotgun and started distributing the ball like a point guard. Sometimes he'd hand it off to Conner. Others he'd "throw" a "pop" pass to a teammate running in motion in front of him. Still others he opted to keep it himself, including on his third-quarter touchdown in which he strolled into the end zone after the Bengals bit on a fake handoff.

"We knew if we could get a lot of guys going sideways, it was going to mess them up a little bit so that's what we did," Samuels said. "It was working. ... We were picking up five, six yards every play. They couldn't stop it."

Samuels ran for 26 yards on 10 carries, caught eight passes for 57 more and was credited with three completions for 31 yards. Conner had 14 touches for 125 yards, including a 21-yard sprint through the Cincinnati defense in the second quarter that gave the Steelers a lead they never came close to squandering while beating the Bengals for the ninth consecutive time.

Woe and 4

Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor became the second first-year coach to drop his first four games with the Bengals. Sam Wyche started 0-5 in 1984 but helped his team rebound to an 8-8 finish. Taylor's task of getting Cincinnati back to respectability will be far harder if he can't figure out a way to protect Dalton.

"To be quite honest, it starts with me," Taylor said. "I've got to make sure the standard is higher than what it is right now, because I haven't done a good enough job.

Rudolph rolls

Rudolph was uneven at best in his first career start last week in San Francisco after being thrust into the gig for the rest of the season while Roethlisberger rehabs from elbow surgery. Rudolph was considerably sharper against Cincinnati, although he wasn't asked to do much other than find the closest open man — usually Conner or Samuels — and keep the sticks moving. He completed 24 of 28 passes, the only deep shot a 43-yard strike to Diontae Johnson in the third quarter that broke it open.

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Aided by adversity

Blues' run from last place to Stanley Cup shows value of NHL regular season

By Stephen Whyno Associated Press

hen the Tampa Bay Lightning woke up on Jan. 3 atop the NHL standings, the St. Louis Blues were dead last. Tampa had won 31 of its first 39 games, while St. Louis had won only 15 of its first 37. The Lightning staked themselves to 30-point lead on the Blues before the season's halfway mark.

The rest is league history: The Lightning got swept out of the playoffs in the first round, and the Blues went from the basement to lifting the Stanley Cup in triumph. That the Blues struggled for so long and didn't hit their stride until January could make much of the six-month regular season seem point-

Inside:

■ Maple Leafs among Canadian teams looking to take next step, Page 27



- Blues' O'Reilly one of the players to watch this season, Page 26
- Sabres coach Krueger fine with flying under the radar, Page 25

less, although players suggest it actually shows the importance of ups, downs and adversity during the 82-game grind as a way to prepare to win playoff

"You've got to understand in the bigger picture if you're going to have a four, five, six-game losing streak at some point, it's no reason to hit the panic button," said Jonathan Toews, who won the Cup as the Chicago Blackhawks' captain in 2010, 2013 and 2015. "You almost have to go through that so when playoffs do come around, you're ready to turn that switch and you've got that energy and you've got that confidence that if you work, you're going to get the results for it.

SEE ADVERSITY ON PAGE 27

